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APPALACHIAN TRAIL AMENDMENTS

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HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-FIFTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

S. 2066

A BILL TO AMEND THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM ACT

H.R. 8803

AN ACT TO AMEND THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM ACT,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

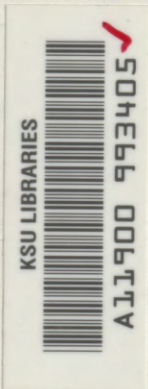
NOVEMBER 1, 1977

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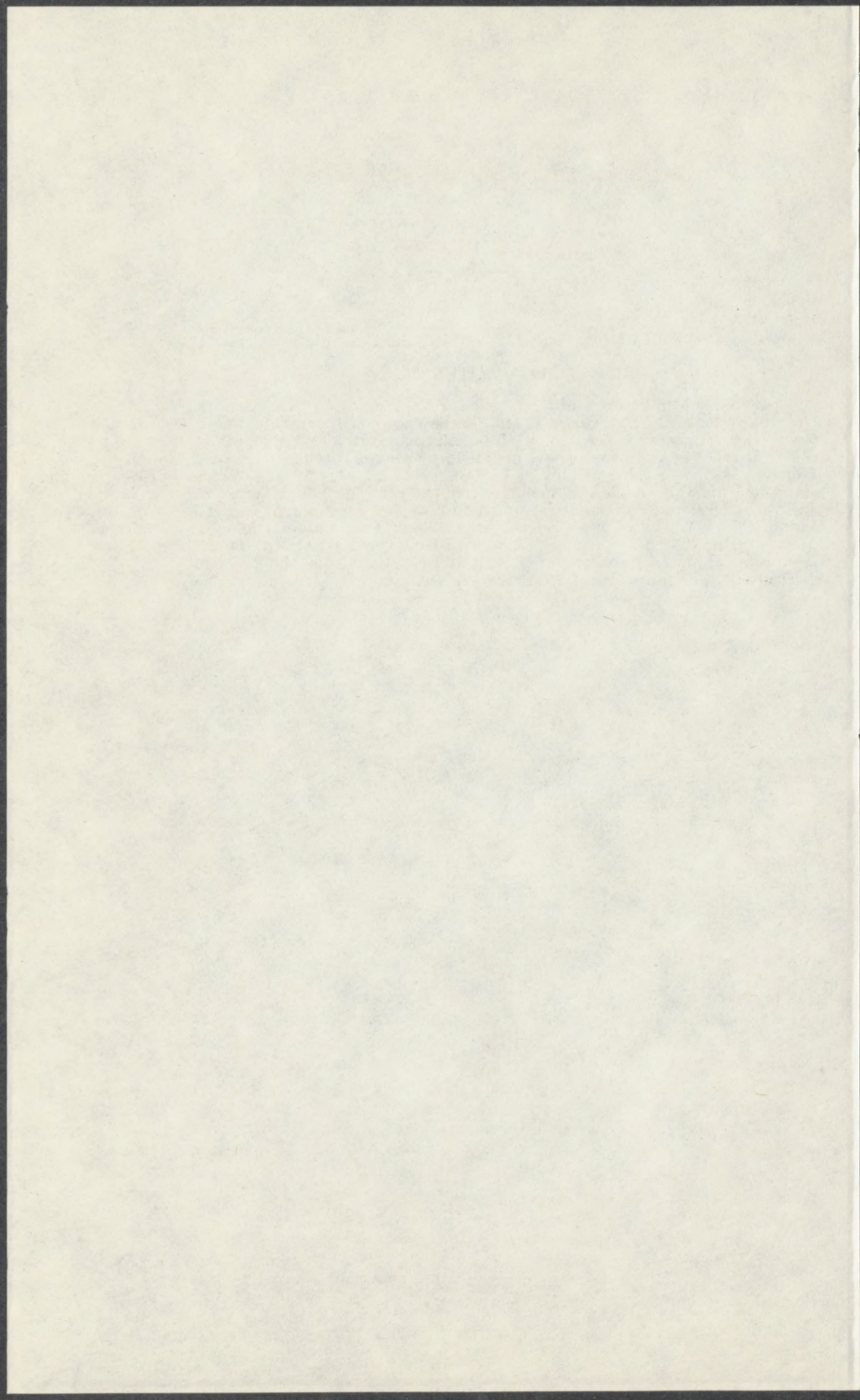
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APPALACHIAN TRAIL AMENDMENTS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1977

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION,
OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 9 a.m., in room 3110, Dirksen Office Building, Hon. John A. Durkin, presiding.

Present: Senators Durkin and Hansen.

Also present: Laura L. Beaty, professional staff member.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN A. DURKIN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Senator DURKIN. The hearing will come to order. The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on S. 2066 and H.R. 8803, bills to amend the National Trails System Act of 1968.

Although there are some differences between the two measures, both would amend the 1968 national trails legislation to: (1) Reconstitute the Appalachian Trail's Advisory Council by statute; (2) raise the present limit on condemnation along the trail from 25 acres per mile to 125 acres per mile in the Senate measure and an average of 125 miles in the House measure; and (3) increase the present authorization ceiling for the Appalachian Trail from \$5 million to \$89 million in the Senate measure and \$30 million for three fiscal years, 1978, 1979, and 1980 in the House measure.

In my view, the question we must address this morning is not, should we protect the Appalachian Trail, for that question was decided in 1968 with the enactment of the National Trails System Act. Rather, the question before the Congress at this time is how can we protect the trail—what additional authorities are necessary to protect the trail as Congress intended some 9 years ago.

There is also a need to act as quickly as is possible on the bill within reason, because land adjacent to or nearby the trail is being developed at an alarming pace. Use of the Appalachian Trail has tripled in the last 8 years, according to the Appalachian Trail Conference, testifying to the ever-increasing need for the kind of experience the trail can provide. But it must be preserved if it is to continue to offer the uncluttered vistas that are its trademark.

Because of the time limitation we are operating under this morning, I have asked that the hearing record remain open for 10 days so that those people unable to testify in person today can submit statements and have them considered by the members of the committee. I would ask unanimous consent that the bills and the relevant administration reports accompanying them be included in the record at this point.

At this point in the record I will insert copies of the bills and Department report.

[The texts of S. 2066 and H.R. 8803, and the Department report follow:]

95TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2066

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 7, 1977

Mr. MATHIAS (for himself, Mr. BROOKE, Mr. HEINZ, and Mr. JACKSON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the National Trails Systems Act.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 That (a) that part of paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of
4 section 5 of the National Trails System Act which precedes
5 the colon in the third sentence thereof is amended to read
6 as follows:

7 “(3) The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish an
8 advisory council for the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.
9 The Secretary of Agriculture shall consult with such council
10 from time to time with respect to matters relating to the
11 trail, including the selection of rights-of-way, standards of

II

1 the erection and maintenance of markers along the trail, and
2 the administration of the trail. The members of such council,
3 which shall not exceed thirty-five in number, shall serve
4 without compensation or expense to the Federal Govern-
5 ment for a term of five years and shall be appointed by the
6 Secretary of Agriculture as follows:"

7 (b) Subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (3) of section 5
8 of such Act is amended by deleting the following: "*Pro-*
9 *vided*, That the Appalachian Trail Conference shall be repre-
10 sented by a sufficient number of persons to represent the
11 various sections of the country through which the Appa-
12 lachian Trail passes".

13 (c) Subsection (a) of section 5 of such Act is amended
14 by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph:
15 " (4) There is hereby established an advisory council
16 for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail which shall termi-
17 nate one-hundred and twenty months from the date of the
18 enactment of this paragraph. The Secretary of the Interior
19 shall consult with such council from time to time with respect
20 to matters relating to the trail, including the selection of
21 rights-of-way, standards for the erection and maintenance of
22 markers along the trail, and the administration of the trail.
23 The members of the Advisory Council, which shall not
24 exceed thirty-five in number, shall serve without compensa-
25 tion, shall serve for a term of two years, and shall be ap-

1 pointed by the Secretary of the Interior in the manner set
2 forth in subparagraphs (i) through (iv) of paragraph (3)
3 of this subsection.”.

4 (d) Subsection (d) of section 7 of such Act is amended
5 by adding at the end thereof the following: “Notwithstand-
6 ing the foregoing provisions of this subsection, the provisions
7 of subsection (g), or any other law, the heads of Federal
8 agencies, in connection with the Appalachian National Scenic
9 Trail, may acquire up to one hundred and twenty-five acres
10 in any one mile without the consent of the owner thereof.”.

11 (e) Section 10 of such Act is amended by deleting
12 “\$5,000,000” and inserting in lieu thereof “\$89,000,000”.

95TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 8803

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 27 (legislative day, OCTOBER 21), 1977

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

AN ACT

To amend the National Trails System Act, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the National Trails System Act (82 Stat. 919; 16
4 U.S.C. 1241), as amended (90 Stat. 2481; 16 U.S.C.
5 1244), is further amended as follows:

6 (1) Delete section 5 (a) (3), and insert a new section
7 5 (d) to read as follows:

8 “(d) The Secretary charged with the administration of
9 each respective trail shall, within one year of the date of
10 the addition of any national scenic trail to the System, and
11 within sixty days of the enactment of this sentence for the

II

1 Appalachian and Pacific Crest National Scenic Trails, estab-
2 lish an advisory council for each such trail, each of which
3 councils shall expire ten years from the date of its establish-
4 ment. The appropriate Secretary shall consult with such
5 council from time to time with respect to matters relating
6 to the trail, including the selection of rights-of-way, stand-
7 ards for the erection and maintenance of markers along
8 the trail, and the administration of the trail. The members
9 of each advisory council, which shall not exceed thirty-five
10 in number, shall serve for a term of five years and
11 without compensation as such, but the Secretary may pay,
12 upon vouchers signed by the chairman of the council, the
13 expenses reasonably incurred by the council and its mem-
14 bers in carrying out their responsibilities under this section.
15 Members of each council shall be appointed by the appro-
16 priate Secretary as follows:

17 “(i) a member appointed to represent each Fed-
18 eral department or independent agency administering
19 lands through which the trail route passes and each ap-
20 pointee shall be the person designated by the head of
21 such department or agency;

22 “(ii) a member appointed to represent each State
23 through which the trail passes and such appointments
24 shall be made from recommendations of the Governors
25 of such States;

1 “(iii) one or more members appointed to represent
2 private organizations, including landowners and land
3 users, that, in the opinion of the Secretary, have an
4 established and recognized interest in the trail and such
5 appointments shall be made from recommendations of
6 the heads of such organizations: *Provided*, That the Ap-
7 palachian Trail Conference shall be represented by a
8 sufficient number of persons to represent the various sec-
9 tions of the country through which the Appalachian
10 Trail passes; and

11 “(iv) the Secretary shall designate one member to
12 be chairman and shall fill vacancies in the same manner
13 as the original appointment.”.

14 (2) In section 5 add a new subsection (e) as follows:

15 “(e) Within two years of the date of enactment of legis-
16 lation designating a trail as part of the System, and within
17 two years of the date of enactment of this subsection for the
18 Pacific Crest and Appalachian Trails, the responsible Secre-
19 tary shall, after full consultation with the Governors of the
20 affected States, submit to the Committee on Interior and Insu-
21 lar Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Commit-
22 tee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, a com-
23 prehensive plan for the acquisition, management, develop-
24 ment, and use of the trail, including but not limited to, the
25 following items:

1 “(1) A proposed, detailed, phased acquisition plan,
2 by fiscal year, for all lands to be acquired, along with
3 detailed explanation of anticipated necessary cooperative
4 agreements for any lands not to be acquired.

5 “(2) Specific objectives and practices to be observed
6 in the management of the trail, including the identifica-
7 tion of all significant natural, historical, and cultural
8 resources to be preserved, and details of anticipated
9 cooperative agreements to be consummated with other
10 entities.

11 “(3) General and site-specific development plans,
12 including anticipated costs.

13 “(4) Guidelines for public use of the trail, along
14 with needed or anticipated use restrictions, and an iden-
15 tified carrying capacity of the trail and a plan for its
16 implementation.”.

17 (3) In section 7 (d), in the last sentence thereof. change
18 the colon to a period and delete the proviso.

19 (4) In section 7 (g), delete the first and second provisos
20 entirely, and insert in lieu the following: “*Provided, That*
21 condemnation proceedings may not be utilized to acquire fee
22 title or lesser interests to more than an average of twenty-five
23 acres per mile, except that up to an average of one hundred
24 and twenty-five acres per mile may be so acquired in the case
25 of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.”.

1 (5) In section 10, at the end thereof, add the following:

2 "From the appropriations authorized for fiscal year
3 1978 and succeeding fiscal years pursuant to the Land and
4 Water Conservation Fund Act (788 Stat. 897), as amended,
5 not more than the following amounts may be expended for
6 the acquisition of lands and interests in lands authorized to
7 be acquired pursuant to the provisions of this Act:

8 "(i) The Appalachian National Scenic Trail, not to
9 exceed \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 1978, \$30,000,000 for
10 fiscal year 1979, and \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 1980,
11 except that the difference between the foregoing amounts and
12 the actual appropriations in any one fiscal year shall remain
13 available for further appropriation. It is the express intent
14 of the Congress that the Secretary should substantially com-
15 plete the land acquisition program necessary to insure the
16 protection of the trail within three complete fiscal years fol-
17 lowing the date of enactment of this sentence. Until the en-
18 tire acquisition program is completed, he shall transmit in
19 writing at the close of each fiscal year the following informa-
20 tion to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of
21 the United States Senate and to the Committee on Interior
22 and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Repre-
23 sentatives:

24 "(1) the amount of land acquired during the fiscal
25 year and the amount expended therefor;

1 “(2) the amount of land remaining to be acquired;

2 and

3 “(3) the amount of land planned for acquisition in
4 the ensuing fiscal year and the estimated cost thereof.

5 For the purposes of Public Law 95-42 (91 Stat. 210), the
6 lands and interests therein acquired pursuant to this para-
7 graph shall be deemed to qualify for funding under the
8 provisions of section 1, clause 2, of said Act.”

9 SEC. 2. For the purposes of this Act, except for the lands
10 acquired pursuant to section 1, no other privately owned
11 lands authorized subsequent to January 1, 1977, to be ac-
12 quired for inclusion in the National Park System, shall
13 qualify for the purpose of making any payments under the
14 provisions of the Act of October 29, 1976 (90 Stat. 2662),
15 unless hereafter authorized by law.

Passed the House of Representatives October 25, 1977.

Attest: EDMUND L. HENSHAW, JR.,
Clerk.



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

OCT 31 1977

Honorable Henry M. Jackson
Chairman, Committee on
Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This responds to your request for our views on S. 2066 and H.R. 8803, bill "To amend the National Trails System Act, and for other purposes."

We recommend that the bills be enacted if amended as proposed below.

S. 2066 and H.R. 8803 would increase the Federal land acquisition ceiling for the Appalachian Trail to \$89,000,000 and \$90,000,000 respectively; increase the limitation on use of the power of eminent domain for Appalachian Trail acquisition from 25 acres in any one mile to 125 acres in any one mile; and would legislatively reconstitute the Appalachian Trail Advisory Council, include a termination provision and change the term of appointment for members.

Of the existing \$5,000,000 land acquisition ceiling for the Appalachian Trail, \$190,000 was spent on mapping the Official Trail Route; \$1,000,000 has been committed to the Forest Service for acquiring a Trail right-of-way in national forests; \$1,000,000 was appropriated in FY 1977 to the National Park Service for pre-acquisition mapping, title work, and surveying; and \$627,000 is in the FY 1978 budget for initial Federal acquisition. This would leave a remaining balance of \$2,183,000 which would be available for appropriation.

S. 2066 and H.R. 8803 would enable the Department to acquire by eminent domain up to 125 acres in any one mile of the Trail. The existing 25 acre per mile limitation on use of the power of eminent domain makes acquisition of a corridor wide enough to protect the essential Trail environment very difficult. Consideration of more than 25 acres in any one mile is blocked even for purposes of clearing title. Disagreements on price for larger tracts cannot be considered through customary legal procedures. Failure to acquire more than 25 acres, which yields an average corridor of 200 feet, encourages speculation on adjacent lands



and conflicting developments within sound and sight of the Trails. The 125 per acre per mile figure proposed in S. 2066 and H.R. 8803 would permit a 1,000 foot median corridor to be established.

We believe that the proposals in S. 2066 and H.R. 8803 to establish an Appalachian Trail Advisory Council are unnecessary, since the existing administratively-created Council has proved to be a success.

Nearly nine years after passage of the National Trails System Act, which had among its principal purposes the permanent protection of the Appalachian Trail, 650 miles of the Trail remain on private lands and another 175 miles of the Trail follow roads for lack of a protected right-of-way. Our efforts to obtain satisfactory protection for the Trail through State action have met with mixed success. It now seems probable that Maryland and New Jersey will provide a protected corridor for the Trail, and there is a possibility that Massachusetts will follow suit. Unprotected Trail sections in Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee are within national forest boundaries and are being purchased by the Forest Service. In the remaining eight Appalachian Trail States, however, it is clear that at least some Federal acquisition will be required.

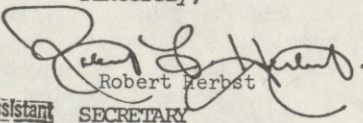
To reinforce the partnership approach in Federal and State acquisition of the most threatened miles of the Appalachian Trail, we recommend a modification in the authorizations proposed in S. 2066 and H.R. 8803. We propose that the authorization be limited at this time to \$35,000,000, as originally proposed in H.R. 8803. Half of this figure would be authorized for direct Federal acquisition. This amount would allow acquisition to take place promptly where States are unable or unwilling to act to protect threatened sections. The balance of the \$35 million would be available to match State acquisition funds. By making these funds available from the Federal side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, there would be no reduction in funds available for allotment to the States and the funds would be used to protect a designated National recreational resources. Distribution of the \$17.5 million available to the States would be made according to guidelines to be developed administratively by the Department of the Interior.

By adding a direct incentive to State acquisitions for the Trail, our proposal would provide potentially for \$52.5 million in acquisition funds, counting State matching funds. This amount should be sufficient to protect 300 of the most threatened miles of the Trail. Emergency acquisition needs have already been identified for this number of miles in New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Virginia.

Finally, we would like to point out that our support of an increased authorization for Federal acquisition for the Appalachian Trail in no way changes our cooperative approach toward the administration of Scenic Trails, as proposed in the Oregon, Lewis and Clark, and North Country Trails studies that were sent to the Congress pursuant to President Carter's Environmental Message. These trails would be designated along the entire route, but actual trail will be provided by the Federal government only on Federal property. Segments on non-Federal lands are to be added as components of the National Trail by non-Federal entities, modeled on the cooperative approach taken in the management of the Appalachian Trail.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,



Robert Herbst

Assistant SECRETARY

Senator DURKIN. Congressman Robinson. If you would like to start, Mr. Mathias is late.

**STATEMENT OF HON. J. KENNETH ROBINSON, A U.S.
REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF VIRGINIA**

Mr. ROBINSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate this opportunity to briefly state my reservations on the hearing, H.R. 8803, which, as you know, passed the House under suspension of the rules, a procedure which prohibits the offering of any amendment on our side. I want to emphasize as I did when the bill came before the House, that I recognize in favor of the concept of an uninterrupted and preserved Appalachian Trail.

Private landowners, irrespective of the size of their holdings, have become increasingly concerned, as well, by the problems of protection of their property from vandalism, rowdyism, littering, and fire hazard, in the face of intensifying use of the trail—even though these problems are not created, or aggravated, by the great majority of hikers who observe accepted trail precautions and a good neighbor attitude. I am thinking in particular of one large tract owner who called me yesterday and through whose land the trail will inevitably have to go to the extent of between 3 and 4 miles. He tells me that in the process of his agricultural pursuit in which he grazes cattle on the land adjacent to the trail, five of his animals have been shot.

I have two suggestions, Mr. Chairman, as to how these concerns might be addressed and abated in this bill:

One, that the eminent domain limitations not be increased, and that this procedure be limited further to provide that it not be resorted to in any instance in which the resulting acquisition would require a change in, or substantially hinder, an existing use of property which is consistent with State and local laws, ordinances and regulations.

Two, that the authorization of additional funds proposed to be made by the bill be broadened to include not only right-of-way acquisition but also protective measures with respect to adjacent lands, including but not limited to fencing, perhaps with a portion of the funds earmarked for the protective purpose.

This concept can be honored over much of its course in Virginia, as the trail winds along the Blue Ridge, because so much of the route is across national forest and national park land. As to private lands, the Division of Parks of the Commonwealth of Virginia has been engaged in negotiations for rights-of-way during recent years, pursuant to both Federal and State enactments. In general, it has been possible to move toward agreements with owners of large tracts. The concerns I am asking the subcommittee to consider most carefully today, however, are those which have been conveyed to me by citizens with smaller holdings on which they have established vacation or retirement homes, some with modest agricultural activities.

In particular, they are disturbed by the substantially widened right-of-way this bill would authorize to be acquired by exercise of the power of eminent domain. We all realize the problem that arises in the average mind of the landowner when eminent domain is suggested.

Even though existing law—and this bill—do not contemplate use of such power in other than exceptional cases, the locations trail planners

regard as exceptional could involve most serious impingement on the conduct of agricultural or other legitimate business pursuits, or on the quiet enjoyment of a home.

I ask that these proposals be examined in a spirit of accommodation of the interests of landowners and trail users, which I do not believe need be in persistent or irreconcilable conflict.

I might add that I have also come over to the Senate carrying the concern of Congressman Daniel and Congressman Butler, through whose districts the trail also goes. I have been in constant communication regarding the matter with our Commissioner of Parks, Mr. Ben Bolin, who is well known to a number of the people on this site, of course, and he tells me, of course, that he is confident that those arrangements can be worked out with the private landowners, but he agrees that haste is not in the best interest of accomplishing those, that they come up short and begin to dig in their heels when they feel that they are against some kind of a deadline, and this expression as well was echoed by Congressman Byron who, of course, is the chief patron of the bill. Congressman Byron is drafting an agreement which he hopes will be most useful in dealing with the private property owners through which the trail has to go in his own State of Maryland, and we are awaiting the receipt of a copy of that agreement, because we think it would be helpful in dealing with the private landowners in Virginia.

For your information, Senator, if I may leave the mike a moment, the area under concern in Virginia, essentially, is the area that lies north of the Shenandoah National Park; after you leave the private lands, you are—the public lands, you are in the private lands all the way to the Maryland border, and those are the folks that we are concerned about in terms of representing them here this morning and expressing their problems as they look at the legislation which now lies before you.

Senator DURKIN. Mr. Congressman, I want to thank you for coming over and taking the time and interest to testify this morning. I appreciate your concerns. Your suggestions are valid suggestions, and I am sure that the committee will consider them. I might also point out that the record will be open for an additional 10 days if you have any further comments or any of your people along the trail would care to submit statements for the record, the record will be left open and we will welcome their statements as well.

Mr. ROBINSON. I know that they will appreciate that courtesy, Senator, and I am confident that you will receive additional statements from people who have not had time due to the short notice to prepare their own statements in their own behalf.

Senator DURKIN. Senator Hansen?

Senator HANSEN. We are very pleased indeed, as the Chairman has said, to have you here, Mr. Robinson.

You spoke about your interest, at least the concern in the concept of a willing buyer/willing seller provision. As I understand the language in the bill, and I am quoting from the bill on page 4 of the copy I have. It says:

It is the express intent of the Congress that the Secretary should substantially complete the land acquisition program necessary to insure the protection of the trail within three fiscal years following the date of enactment of this

sentence. Until the entire land acquisition program is completed, he shall transmit in writing at the close of each fiscal year the following information to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the U.S. Senate and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives:

1. The amount of land acquired during the fiscal year and the amount expended therefor.

2. The amount of land remaining to be acquired.

3. The amount of land planned for acquisition in the ensuing fiscal year and the estimated cost thereof.

Would you care to comment on that language and tell me if that squares with your thinking, or do you have suggestions as to how it might be changed if it was not according to your wishes?

Mr. ROBINSON. Senator Hansen, I have not had any expression from the landowners or their representatives that would infer that they have any significant objection to that particular language.

The only concern that they feel, I think, is that of additional threat of eminent domain in terms of widening the trail as it goes through their property, some of which are very small and, as I said, any time you raise the specter of eminent domain, why, they are immediately up in arms.

They are being given, I think, an adequate time to deal with the State authorities in each of the instances involved, and in the State of Virginia the process is moving satisfactorily. However, this legislation is being interpreted as a means of hurrying them up, of pushing them into decisions which they do not feel that they are ready to make, and I think that in the case of Virginia, if Ben Bolin is allowed to proceed in his own way without being urged to too great a degree, that we will get the rest of the land without any difficulty, and I do worry, however, about the widening of the trail to the extent of five times its authorized average width at the moment.

I talked to both Congressman Byron and to Congressman Burton on this subject, and as far as they are concerned, this matter is most negotiable. They do not feel that this 125 acres per mile is a figure into which they are locked in cement, and that it can be substantially reduced or perhaps eliminated.

Senator HANSEN. Well, it seems to me that this legislative directive, which I believe this language is, saying that it is the intent of the Congress that the Secretary should substantially complete the land acquisition program necessary to insure the production of the trail within 3 complete fiscal years. By putting a time limit on, I am not sure that the concept of willing buyer/willing seller arrangement could be worked out with that sort of directive in effect guiding the land acquisition policy of the park service. We have had a little experience in western Wyoming, and I am not trying to take sides one way or the other.

I appreciate how keenly people feel about the land they own within an area that is desired for park acquisition or expansion on the one hand, and I understand full well on the other what happens if the park is without authority to buy in. I have had some experience, vicariously, at least with that program. Would you not agree that if we say that it is our intention that you should acquire, virtually acquire all of the land within 3 fiscal years that the push is going to become shove pretty quickly?

Mr. ROBINSON. Yes; Senator, I certainly would. I am conscious of the fact, however, that the most significant problems do not lie within the State of Virginia where we are much nearer to solving the prob-

lems, and I think generally speaking we have very satisfactory cooperation, but being a believer in the trail concept and in keeping it open, I know that problems exist in other States that are far more serious than those that exist in the northern part of our State where my property owners are.

Senator HANSEN. Thank you very much, Mr. Robinson.

Senator DURKIN. Thank you, Mr. Robinson.

[Subsequent to the hearing Representative Robinson submitted the following:]

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D.C., November 14, 1977.

HON. JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On November 1, 1977, I had the privilege of testifying before the Subcommittee in regard to certain aspects of H.R. 8803, a bill which included certain additional authority in regard to land acquisitions for the Appalachian Trail.

I now am enclosing, for the information of the Subcommittee, a copy of a letter which I have received from J. Sloan Kuykendall, Esquire, an attorney of Winchester, Virginia, on behalf of a client, Mr. Reed Thomas, who is one of a number of property owners in Virginia over whose land a right-of-way for the trail is being sought.

As will be seen, the letter indicates progress in negotiations between Mr. Thomas and Mr. Ben Bolen, Director of the Virginia State Division of Parks.

This reinforces my conviction that the continuity of the trail can be insured best by a policy of restraint on the part of the government wherever state authorities are proceeding toward the acquisition of rights-of-way with due concern for the impact on landowners—particularly those with small holdings.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

J. KENNETH ROBINSON.

KUYKENDALL, WHITING, COSTELLO & HANES,
Winchester, Va., November 3, 1977.

Re Reed Thomas—Appalachian Trail.

HON. J. KENNETH ROBINSON,
Colony Realty, Winchester, Va.

DEAR KENNETH: I appreciate your courtesy in calling me a few days ago advising that there would be a meeting of the Senate subcommittee for the purpose of considering the House Bill dealing with the Appalachian Trail. I advised that I would not be in a position to appear at that hearing.

Since then, you advised that the subcommittee did have the hearing and that you appeared and expressed your views regarding the bill.

As you know, the Appalachian Trail will be located on a portion of the Reed Thomas property in Clarke County, Virginia, and Mr. Thomas is anxious that it be located on his property in an area that will adequately and properly serve the objectives of the Trail and also protect his property and his usage thereof.

Mr. Thomas has been working with Mr. Ben Bolen of the State Department of Conservation and Economic Development, Division of Parks, in an effort on the part of both parties to effect a location of the Trail on the Thomas property that will, in the judgment of Mr. Bolen, serve the objectives of the Trail as well as do the least damage to Mr. Thomas' property and result in as little interference with its use as possible. Mr. Bolen has been most cooperative and understanding of Mr. Thomas' problems, and Mr. Thomas feels that he and Mr. Bolen can handle the problem in a way satisfactory to both parties.

If Mr. Thomas and Mr. Bolen can agree upon a location of the Trail across the Thomas property, I am sure that Mr. Thomas will be willing to grant an easement for the location of the Trail for a reasonable compensation and thus avoid the need for condemnation proceedings. If the Trail is located at some areas that have been suggested, there will be a substantial loss in market value

to Mr. Thomas' property, which doubtless would be reflected in the compensation award in the event of condemnation.

I would appreciate it if you would make a copy of this letter available to the subcommittee. Mr. Thomas is hopeful that he and Mr. Bolen, representing the State Division of Parks, can agree upon the location of the Trail on his property before the date that the Senate votes on the bill.

With my very kindest and best wishes, I remain

Sincerely,

J. SLOAN KUYKENDALL.

Senator DURKIN. Senator Mathias, perfect timing.

**STATEMENT OF HON. CHARLES McC. MATHIAS, JR., A U.S. SENATOR
FROM THE STATE OF MARYLAND**

Senator MATHIAS. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I am very happy to have this opportunity to appear before the committee. I appreciate your courtesy in hearing me this morning.

I have a prepared statement which I would be happy to submit for the record and comment very briefly on this project.

Congressman Byron, who is the principal sponsor in the House, and I have a very personal interest in this project since both of us come from that part of Maryland through which the Appalachian Trail runs. It crosses the Potomac River in the neighborhood of Harpers Ferry. Of course, as the committee is well aware, it runs north and south along the ridge of the mountains from Georgia and on into New England. And it is a remarkable natural asset to America. It is an hour's drive out of Washington and perhaps on some of these lovely autumn days the committee ought to arrange a visit, an onsite inspection.

Senator DURKIN. We probably will if we get the energy conference out of the way.

Senator MATHIAS. I think there will be a few ideal hours in which we can fit this in, and I would be glad to personally lead the hike and invite the committee to join me on it.

But I think one of the points that needs to be made is the very accessibility of the trail makes it vulnerable. It is so accessible, not only to the committee, but to millions of people who live on the Atlantic seaboard, that it can be very easily lost as a natural asset.

The pressures of population are pushing all around it, and it is very possible that the areas which have been associated with it as an integral part of the trail will be lost and so, therefore, the necessity for this legislation presents itself.

We would increase the authorization for surveying, for title searches, for some land acquisition.

Now, let me just say very frankly to the committee that there is a problem with respect to land acquisition. The adjacent owners are naturally apprehensive and I can understand that.

I, myself, had felt the iron hand of condemnation come down on me, so I know what it feels like and I am unhappy about it, but I believe that this can be worked out in a way which will be satisfactory to the vast majority of people. We reestablish the 35-member trail advisory council which will advise in the administration of the parklands and in the general policies which are to be followed. But if we are to protect the trail and keep it as the kind of remarkable thing that it is, I think we probably have to have more than the 200-foot

width at least at some points. Of course, this does not provide for acquisitions of a maximum of a 1,000-foot right-of-way. For many adjacent property owners that would be considered an asset because it would give them a secure neighbor of the kind that most want to have, but that would be a matter of individual judgment in their case, and one that can be worked out.

I think as far as the section of the trail with which I am most familiar is concerned, many of the problems that exist can be resolved between now and the time that this legislation comes to the Senate floor, certainly before the whole legislating process is worked out. I can speak at great length on the details of this, Mr. Chairman, but I think it is all covered in my statement.

I am very happy to be joined by a number of Members of the Senate, Senator Brooke, Senator Heinz, Senators Jackson, Humphrey, Stevenson, Chafee, Ribicoff, Senator Leahy, the distinguished chairman, Senators Durkin, McIntyre, and Pell in offering this legislation to the committee.

[The prepared statement of Senator Mathias follows:]

STATEMENT OF HON. CHARLES MCC. MATHIAS, JR., A U.S. SENATOR FROM
THE STATE OF MARYLAND

Thank you Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to appear before your Subcommittee to testify on my bill, S. 2066, to protect the Appalachian Trail. As you may know, I introduced this bill in the Senate on September 7 along with Senators Brooke, Heinz and Jackson. Since then, we have been joined in sponsoring the legislation by Senators Humphrey, Nelson, Stevens, Chafee, Ribicoff, Leahy, Durkin, McIntyre and Pell.

The Subcommittee is also considering the companion bill, H.R. 8803, introduced in the House by Congressman Byron.

I believe there are several features of the House bill as passed by the House, which can be incorporated in this legislation.

At present 40 percent of the Appalachian Trail is within national parks and forests; 10 percent is on state-owned land, 10 percent is on roads; and 40 percent crosses privately owned land in easements.

The Appalachian Trail was established as a National Scenic Trail by Congress in 1968. Today, nine years after the enactment of the National Trails Systems Act, 650 miles remain on private lands and another 175 miles follow roads because no alternate, more protected route has been designated.

The National Park Service reports that the states of Maryland and New Jersey have provided a protected corridor for the Trail within those states through state action alone.

The problem is this: the press of the Atlantic seaboard megalopolis is threatening parts of the Trail with development which would be incompatible with the Greenbelt corridor the Trail provides. Parts of the trail are fragmented and need to be reestablished where and when land is available. Several states in which the trail is located have not been able to provide the money to acquire and maintain the Trail right-of-way. As a result, many property owners have unfairly suffered uncompensated loss. And the original National Trails System Act of 1968, which established the Trail, was interpreted to limit the width of right-of-way acquisition to not more than 200 feet. This limitation has resulted in title problems, partial land takings and excessive land speculation on property abutting the Trail. It has resulted in incompatible development within sight and earshot of the Trail.

Both bills attempt to redress some of these problems. First, they increase the present \$5 million authorization level for Trail right-of-way acquisition to \$90 million, to enable the National Park Service to continue mapping, surveying, title searches, acquisition and payment in lieu of taxes for those portions of the trail most threatened by encroachment.

They would increase the amount of property that could be acquired through eminent domain from 25 acres in any one mile to 125 acres. This would permit the acquisition or acquired easement of a flexible and much wider Trail right-of-way depending in the surrounding land uses.

The existing limitation on use of the power of eminent domain makes acquisition of a corridor wide enough to protect the essential trail environment very difficult. Consideration of more than 25 acres in any one mile is blocked even for purposes of clearing title. Disagreements on price for larger tracts cannot be considered through customary legal procedures. Failure to acquire more than 25 acres, which yields an average corridor of 200 feet, encourages speculation on adjacent lands and conflicting developments within sound and sight of the Trail.

Finally, these bills would reconstitute the Appalachian Trail Advisory Council to conform to requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. They would also make administration of the Advisory Committee consistent with most other National Parks Advisory Committees in the payment of travel and attendant expenses, term of appointment of members and termination date. At present, the 14 state representatives of the Advisory Council are not reimbursed for expenses when they travel out of state to attend the Council's meetings.

Mr. Chairman, because of the press of Senate business on energy legislation, this hearing is of necessity a brief one. However, it is important to note that the hearing record will be open to receive written testimony for ten days, through Friday, November 11.

Many people and organizations who favor this legislation have foregone the opportunity to appear in person in order that those who have problems with these two bills might be heard. I have several letters from my constituents here which I would like to submit for the record.

I would also like to call the Committee's attention to suggestions made by several of my constituents in Maryland concerning this legislation. Several persons whose property abuts the Appalachian Trail in Frederick and Washington Counties are concerned that the eminent domain process of land acquisition only be used as a last resort when all other negotiations have not succeeded. I am confident that the Committee shares this concern of property owners along the Trail in other states. My constituents are also concerned that pre-existing residential dwellings be protected from acquisition. I think the Committee would agree that this is an important goal to be included in the legislative history to guide the Interior Department in its operations.

Up until now, the states have been in charge of locating a route for the Trail and acquiring a right-of-way. Their method has consistently been to avoid disrupting homes or causing homeowners to relocate. That is a very costly process for the state and is more time consuming than simply finding a "path of least resistance", if you will, where the Trail can be located with minimal intrusion into private property. I believe the Park Service will pursue such a common sense of policy of avoiding the acquisition of homes.

Lastly, my constituents have suggested that more resident landowners should be represented on the Appalachian Trail Advisory Council. I couldn't agree more. Of the 35-member Council, 19 seats are potentially available for landowner representation. I urge the Secretary of the Interior to heed this reasonable suggestion from the people directly affected by the Trail.

I am told by the Appalachian Trail Conference that, even in densely populated areas like Putnum and Dutchess Counties in New York and Loudon and Jefferson Counties in Virginia and West Virginia, volunteers working with local people have identified high quality locations for the Trail that have no dwellings.

Those volunteers are members of local trail clubs which have also assumed the responsibility for Trail reconstruction and maintenance. This is, perhaps the most unique feature of the development and operation of the Trail. The Appalachian Trail Conference is a federation of 63 trail clubs which voluntarily devote hours to clearing the Trail, rebuilding it when necessary and marking it. Without the work of those outdoor enthusiasts, the Appalachian Trail simply would not exist. They have worked over the years in a voluntary capacity to maintain the Trail in cooperation with the states and federal government. And they have performed the yeoman's part of the job without cost to the government.

In fact, the cost of maintaining the Trail has been minimal. And, it is important to note here, that the Federal government makes a payment in lieu of taxes to those state and local jurisdictions in which the property it owns is located.

The Appalachian Trail was begun in 1925. In the 52 ensuing years, the Trail has served as a refuge for Americans seeking an outdoor wilderness experience. It costs little or no money to enjoy the Trail. Yet the mental and physical rejuvenation one experiences walking the Trail in a natural setting is a most valuable one.

The Trail is a unique natural resource which, if not protected now, will be lost. And lost also will be the concept for the Trail, originated by the late Benton MacKaye who, in 1921, expressed his vision of the Trail:

"Next there would be perspective. Life for two weeks on the mountain top would show up many things about life during the other 50 weeks down below. The latter could be viewed as a whole . . . away from the heat, and sweat, and irritations. There would be a chance to catch a breath, to study the dynamic forces of nature and the possibilities of shifting to them the burdens now carried on the backs of men. The reposeful study of these forces should provide a broad gauged enlightened approach to the problems of industry. Industry would come to be seen in its true perspective—as a means in life and not as an end in itself."

Continued preservation of the Appalachian Trail is the responsibility of that partnership of volunteers, state and Federal government. The simplicity of the concept, its low cost of operation, and the history of private trail club maintenance make the Appalachian Trail a cause worth supporting.

Senator DURKIN. Thank you, Senator.

I think everyone appreciates your interest and your leadership on this issue.

Senator HANSEN?

Senator HANSEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate very much your presence here, Senator Mathias, and I have deep regard for your familiarity with the area and your appreciation for the importance of it.

The part of the legislation that, in my judgment, needs clarification or a clear understanding of precisely what we are trying to do has to do with the land acquisition program. I understand generally that the concept is that land is to be acquired on a willing buyer/willing seller basis, generally, I mean that concept.

Senator MATHIAS. Certainly it would be my hope that it would be done that way.

Senator HANSEN. I do not doubt a bit that much of the land would be needed for expansion could be acquired in that fashion, but having had a little experience in western Wyoming with land acquisition programs and learning by virtue of having lived there for some time how complicated or misunderstood programs can become, it seems important to me to place the responsibility or to be certain that everyone understands where the responsibility is being placed.

I think that if the Congress wants to say to the Park Service, acquire the lands, we ought to make no bones about that. I think if it is going to be a land acquisition program, let's say so. Let's not say that it is going to be a willing seller/willing buyer program, but there will be time constraints or restrictions placed upon it, because in that framework, I think that inevitably applies there will come a time when the Park Service, in order to comply with the mandate or the expressed intention of the Congress in that language precisely on page 4 of the galley I have says:

It is the express intent of the Congress that the Secretary should substantially complete the land acquisition program necessary to insure the protection of the trail within three complete fiscal years following the date of enactment of this sentence.

Now, this is the language as I understand contained in the House bill, and I am concerned about the language because if we were to pass legislation which might be interpreted to leave it pretty much up to the Park Service and the landowners the acquisition program would be on a willing buyer/willing seller basis that would be one thing,

but this language here is certainly similar to some other language that we had talked about in the bill that came from the House earlier on. I think this puts the Park Service in a tough situation, if they are to acquire the land, I think we should mandate the acquisition of the buying, but we should not equivocate as I feel possibly this particular language does.

Would you comment on that?

Senator MATHIAS. Well, first of all, I do not think we should, for many reasons, we should acquire more land than is actually needed. I think that there ought to be a definition of need. And that is, with all due respect to this committee and to the Congress, is probably beyond the competence of the Congress to determine for each mile along the trail what the need is.

If there is no incompatible use, I do not see a point in widening the trail from the existing 200 feet right-of-way to 1,000 feet right-of-way.

If you have owners who want to maintain the property in its natural state, I see no reason for them to be disturbed. The ideal situation would be for them at this point to place a protective easement on their property that retains their property that retains their rights and does everything from the point of view of preservation of the trail that you would want.

Senator HANSEN. What would be your thought on that point that the Federal Government would acquire through purchase, the sort of protective easement you have in mind, so that it could be recorded and would be a matter of—

Senator MATHIAS. Well, it could be purchased. Yes.

Senator HANSEN. Or given if someone chooses to do it that way.

Senator MATHIAS. In many cases I would think it would be of interest of the owners to get a group because everyone benefits from what his neighbor does.

Senator HANSEN. You have in mind a recordable instrument that would specify with particularity just what the rights were that were being—

Senator MATHIAS. Yes; I would think in some cases that might be the situation.

Now, you might have a case where somebody wants to put an incinerator for old automobile tires along the trail, and they are adamant, and they are going to do it. Well, that is a situation where acquisition might be absolutely necessary. There is no war around that. But I think it is useful, and I agree with you it is useful to spell out through the legislative history and possible the committee will want to write some further definition into this to spell out exactly what we have in mind. I think a minimum dislocation of private owners necessary where it is, in fact, necessary, and that is what the wording in the bill means, necessary but not to dislocate those owners if it is not necessary. If there is no incompatible use in adjacent areas, I see no purpose in extending it unnecessarily.

Senator HANSEN. What you say there, I think, makes good sense, and I am not trying to say how or why the trail should be or what areas on it to be included, or whether uses are incompatible with the concept of the trail. My initial question was directed at what I think can hopefully clarify a situation that could become sticky, because I do not

want the Park Service to have to take on the burden of doing what it has been directed to do by the Congress, and then to shy away from the assumption of that responsibility or to attempt to fend off the blame that otherwise might be directed specifically at the Service.

In other words, saying we are just doing what the Congress wants to have done. I think we should be clear in our instructions so that if the Park Service is to be told two things, first examine the trail and determine where the boundaries and the lines should be drawn, and then acquire the property, I would say let s face up to it.

That sort of directive is not worth a dime unless they have the power of eminent domain. You can talk all you want to, and I do not mean you, that is a figure of speech, but I can go on at length about a willing buyer and willing seller deal, but if you say it is to be done within 3 years' time—

Senator MATHIAS. We cannot kid ourselves. The power of government which involves the power of eminent domain is a specter in the picture here. I would point out to the Senator there are several things here that I think are important in this connection.

One would be assurance that there would be landowner representation on the advisory council.

Now, the Senator read the language which includes the word "necessary." As to what is necessary, that is a matter of judgment. It is a matter of setting some policy guidelines, or standards, and then judging each mile of the trail by those standards; and that policy, of course, would be influenced by the advisory council, and I think very clearly there ought to be strong landownership representation on that council so that policies—up and down the trail, north and south—should reflect that, and I would hope that would be done.

Over the weekend I had occasion to talk with several of the adjacent landowners, and I was going to, at the end of my testimony, express the hope that the committee would keep the record open for a reasonable period of time for any of the landowners who have not had an opportunity to formulate their statements to get them in within the next week or 10 days.

Senator DURKIN. We have said 10 days. It could be longer—

Senator MATHIAS. I think 10 days would probably be an adequate time, but I did feel they ought to have an opportunity.

Senator HANSEN. I have taken a lot of time, Mr. Chairman. I do note that in the report of the House bill this specific reference is included, "This policy should be continued and it should be clear that the expectation of the committee is that eminent domain will continue to be used as a tool of last resort for the trail." and I think that is the kind of language that properly should be included and clearly understood so that no one has any misgiving about what the bottom line will be.

Senator MATHIAS. Well, that certainly would be my philosophy. It should only be the last resort. The case of the tire incinerator that I am talking about, and not the case of some adjacent landowner who maintains his property in its natural state, and who is perfectly willing to continue to do that, and whose only offense is that he happens to hold title to the land. In my judgment, he should not be disturbed.

Senator HANSEN. Thank you very much, Senator Mathias.

Senator MATHIAS. I might say to the Senator from Wyoming that there is one opportunity here that I think might appeal to him with

his strong interest, not only in the environment, but in giving people an opportunity for individual initiative.

I have, for years, hoped that we could, in connection with various park projects, involve people to a much greater degree than we have. Down in the C & O Canal Park, I thought there was a great opportunity for bringing people in from the community and letting them clear out the brush and build up the walls of the canal. You might assign a Lions Club or Kiwanis Club a half a mile of the canal and say that is your responsibility. I have never been able to really sell that concept to the Park Service. They always have a million bureaucratic reasons why they cannot do that. They are afraid somebody will stub his toe, and who is going to pick up the liability insurance, and all of that kind of thing.

But here is an opportunity, I think, where the 63 volunteer trail clubs could be engaged in a very responsible and creative way in maintaining and reconstructing the trail. Somebody has tried to quantify the value of their volunteer efforts, and have come up with a figure of something like \$2 million a year, which is a tremendous contribution to make to the Nation, and I think this is worth remembering.

I think it is a feature of this program which is not by any means the least important to give people a chance to make a personal investment in the country, which is hard to find.

I might close, Mr. Chairman, with just quoting from the words of Benton McKay who was the man who really had the original concept for the trail. And in 1921 he said :

Next there would be perspective, life for 2 weeks on the mountaintop would show us many things about life during the other 50 weeks down below. The latter could be viewed as a hole away from the heat and sweat and irritations. There would be a chance to catch a breath, to study the dynamic forces of nature, the possibilities of shifting to them the burdens now carried on the backs of man. The reposeful study of these forces should provide a broad enlightened approach to the problems of industry. Industry would come to be seen in its true perspective as a means in life and not as an end in itself,

and I will close with that thought.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator DURKIN. Thank you, Senator.

At this point I will insert in the record the full statement of Mr. T. Destry Jarvis representing the National Park and Conservation Association, and the statement of Henry W. Lautz, of the Appalachian Trail Conference.

[The statements of Mr. Jarvis and Mr. Lautz follow:]

STATEMENT OF T. DESTRY JARVIS, NATIONAL PARKS AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Mr. Chairman and other distinguished members of the Subcommittee, I am T. Destry Jarvis, representing the National Parks and Conservation Association, located at 1701 18th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009. NPCA is the principal national conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the national park system. For purposes of this hearing I have been authorized to represent Defenders of Wildlife, Friends of the Earth, National Audubon Society, Sierra Club, the Nature Conservancy, and the Wilderness Society.

In addition to these organizational affiliations, by way of identifying myself with regard to the Appalachian Trail specifically, for the past five years I have been closely associated with the Appalachian Trail through the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC), most recently serving as its Conservation Chairman. PATC has primary responsibility for the Appalachian Trail in southern

Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, and Virginia as far south as Jarman Gap, the southern end of Shenandoah National Park.

Mr. Chairman, all of the national conservation organizations have supported the Appalachian Trail, and, I believe, will support the legislation under consideration by this Committee, S. 2066. Credit is due Senator Mathias for his sponsorship of this bill, and we collectively commend him for it.

In my mind, the Appalachian Trail exists today almost entirely due to the untiring work and vigilance of the thousands of private citizens not only in the fourteen states through which the trail passes, but elsewhere as well. It is the premier example of citizen-voluntary action for a conservation purpose in this country.

At present, however, the thousands of man-years of volunteer effort by private citizens devoted to trail construction and maintenance are in jeopardy of being lost without a new federal commitment including enactment of the pending legislation. The Assistant Secretary of Interior, Robert Herbst, has reiterated a commitment made informally to trail hikers and workers at the annual meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conference in May 1977. Secretary Herbst's leadership and initiative is without precedent where trails are concerned. Where previous administrations have been unwilling to act and unable to recognize the unique and nationally significant qualities of the Appalachian Trail, Secretary Herbst has shown a commitment to conservation and a comprehension of the value of citizen-voluntary action which has carried the Appalachian Trail along to date.

There have been untold man-years of voluntary citizen effort which have gone into the Appalachian Trail. However, unless the trail corridor is widened and federal land acquisition initiated as proposed in S. 2066, the trail's hiking experience through natural scenic countryside which millions enjoy, is likely to be curtailed or lost in many areas.

Critical sections of the Appalachian Trail currently lie on paved road rights-of-way or through people's backyards largely due to uncontrolled development in the Appalachian Trail corridor. Timely action to acquire critical tracts of the Appalachian Trail is imperative. Further deferral of the commitment made by passage of the National Trails System Act (Public Law 90-543) will result in either permanent failure to provide a continuous trail corridor through scenic areas or a greatly increased price for acquisition.

Previous and ongoing actions of those trail states which have made policy and financial commitments to the Appalachian Trail will not be cut off by this bill, since the federal acquisition is intended to concentrate in those areas where states cannot or will not act. Matching grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund can and should continue for trail purposes where states are willing to request them. Nevertheless we support the provision of S. 2066 providing \$89 million for federal land acquisition. This is the full amount needed to complete the trail corridor's protection, though it could be appropriated and spent over several years.

Since agriculture and wise timber management are fully compatible with the Appalachian Trail, the pending legislation should not be considered to be in conflict with these activities. We would not expect to see federal acquisition in these types of areas, except where they are threatened with incompatible development, such as subdivision and second-home tracts.

While the Appalachian Trail does not hold the scenic splendor of Yosemite Valley and Half Dome as viewed from Glacier Point, or the vast grandeur of Grand Canyon from Mather Point, or the mysterious solitude of the Everglades, it is nonetheless a spectacular resource. The Appalachian Trail is a people park in the finest sense which gives the urban dweller a rare opportunity to view wildlife in its natural habitat. No mechanized equipment is allowed, no restaurants or motels are needed and souvenir shops would be a debasement. People from all segments of society can and have enjoyed the Appalachian Trail at little or no expense. Only a short distance from one-half of the U.S. population, the Appalachian Trail provides a unique opportunity for healthful exercise and mental relaxation in a relatively wild environment.

We urge this Committee to act expeditiously and affirmatively on S. 2066.

STATEMENT OF HENRY W. LAUTZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONFERENCE

My name is Henry L. Lautz and I am representing the Appalachian Trail Conference of which I am the Executive Director. I am here to testify in favor of House Bill H.R. 8803.

The Appalachian Trail Conference, which is 51 years old, is a confederation of 63 clubs having a total membership of approximately 70,000. These are clubs of volunteers who maintain sections of the Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia. The Conference also has a direct membership of approximately 10,000 who come from all 50 states and several foreign countries. The Conference is a private, non-profit, educational corporation whose purpose is to conserve, construct and maintain the Appalachian Trail as a national, recreational and natural resource for the use of all. Member volunteers of the Conference and the Trail clubs devote many thousands of hours of their free time to the Appalachian Trail at no cost to the government. They represent a 51 year tradition of co-operative effort with local, state and federal land managing agencies that have provided the citizens of this country with a significant recreational and environmental resource at very little cost to the taxpayer.

We estimate that the Appalachian Trail is now used by well over 4 million people each year. These Trail users come from the broad spectrum of our society. They are scouts, church groups, garden club members, school classes, families, college students and others who wish to spend an afternoon, a day, a weekend, a week or the four months it takes to hike the entire Trail. While most of our membership in both the Conference and the clubs does use the Appalachian Trail, we are primarily a service oriented organization. In our entire 51 year history this is only the second time we have come to Congress to ask for help.

My remarks in this statement will be primarily addressed to those areas that lie outside the present boundaries of units of state and federal land managing agencies. However, before going further, I would like to make a point that the founder of the Appalachian Trail always saw the need for a partnership between the private and the public sector in the preservation and the maintenance of the Trail. This was part of his "Body and Soul" statement in the last year of his life where he stated that the body of the Trail must be protected by the government and the soul of the Trail must remain with and be protected by the volunteers. He realized that one could not exist without the other. It had to be a partnership. Not only was this one of his last thoughts, it was one of his early ones too. In an address given to the Appalachian Trail Conference assembled at Boone, North Carolina in 1975, Congressman Goodloe Byron used a quote from Benton MacKaye that was made in 1918: "The Appalachian Range should be placed in public hands and become the site for a Utopia. It matters little whether the various sections be State lands or Federal or whether you spell them park or forest, the main thing is to capture these areas and hold them from further inroads of metropolitanism . . ." As Congressman Byron remarked at the time "when one considers the year of these words, one is amazed at their prescience and accuracy."

The history of the Appalachian Trail Project has been one of trying every alternative to the approach Benton MacKaye saw as necessary from the beginning. In the first 43 years of the Trail, that is up to the passage of the National Trail System Act in 1968, the efforts of the volunteers were directed toward doing everything possible at the private and local level. It was only in the late 50's and early 60's when it became apparent that this approach was swiftly becoming insufficient to protect the Trail that Conference volunteers went to Congress to seek further protection of the Trail and this resulted in the Act of 1968. In the period after 1968 up until the present, the main effort was directed toward seeking State action. During this period several States have acted to varying degrees. Maryland has undoubtedly had the best record. Much credit for this go to Congressman Byron who was a member of the Maryland General Assembly and also to private volunteers like Ruth Blackburn and Les Holmes. Maryland, in fact, is in the process of purchasing an Appalachian Trail corridor averaging a half-mile width for the entire length of its section of the Trail. Other States have found it impossible to act to that degree but have been acting to the limit of their resources. There are States such as Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. Other States have found it impossible to act at all. It is because of these last two kinds of situations that the Appalachian Trail Conference passed a unanimous resolution at our meeting this year in Shepardstown, West Virginia seeking Federal action to save the Appalachian Trail.

There is 175 miles of the Appalachian Trail that is currently on roads and approximately 650 miles that have no legal protection along which a number of proposed developments would totally disrupt the Appalachian Trail. Even in densely populated areas like Putnam and Dutchess counties in New York and Loudoun and Jefferson counties in Virginia and West Virginia, volunteers work-

ing with local people have identified high quality locations for the Trail that have no dwellings. These opportunities will not last long. If immediate action is taken by Congress, the Appalachian Trail can in fact be saved for the enjoyment of this generation and those that follow.

I would like to conclude my testimony by making some specific remarks:

1. As I stated earlier, the main purpose of the Conference and its member clubs is the volunteer maintenance of the Appalachian Trail. By one method of calculation this undertaking represents an annual gift of approximately 2 million dollars to the American public. The Conference's major job is maintaining this continuing volunteer involvement. However, where the Trail finds itself on roads or in very undesirable situations, it is difficult to find volunteers to do the work. It is no mere coincidence that our strongest clubs tend to be in areas that have the highest quality Trail. The ability of our organization to continue its 51 year tradition of volunteer service will depend to a large degree on Congress's and the Administration's willingness to act.

2. The Appalachian Trail is a major recreational resource; it goes through 14 states and passes within a short distance of some of the most densely populated areas in the East. It is in fact within a half days drive of one-half of the population of the United States.

3. Not only is the Appalachian Trail a major recreational resource, it is also a 51 year tradition of citizen involvement with the government. It is the kind of involvement that we in a democracy all believe in and need to encourage. It stands as a sharp contrast to those who would let someone else do it. It would be sad indeed if we were to let this opportunity to support this kind of involvement go by.

4. One problem we face, and it is a serious one, comes from the number of times we are forced to relocate the Trail each year. Since the publication of the official Trail route in 1971 there have been an average of 30 relocations of the Trail every year. This is not only a major work problem, but it also makes it impossible for us to give accurate route and map information to the thousands of people each year who buy guides and maps from us. Since we can only publish a new edition of each of the ten guides every three years, there are an average of 90 mistakes in each one by the time we issue a new edition.

5. With respect to the Advisory Council, experience has shown that it is an invaluable tool where there is management by cooperation instead of dictation. The Advisory Council provides a forum not only for the citizen volunteers but also for state representative and representatives of the various federal land managing agencies to work on common challenges and come up with solutions that all ascribe to. Without the Advisory Council it would be nearly impossible to manage the Appalachian Trail as a cooperative project. Further, without the ability to pay travel expenses we are putting road blocks in front of state and private involvement where we ought to be encouraging it.

6. The flexibility of Corridor design which is inherent in the 125 acre per mile authorization is necessary if the Trail is to be preserved with its maximum, natural and recreational potential. This flexibility would allow the protection of special and important areas while not mandating unnecessary purchase. It would also allow the Trail to pass through farmland and lands in sound timber management with little or no disruption to these kinds of activities. A very fine independent study done by the School of Landscape Architecture at Pennsylvania State University in cooperation with the State of Pennsylvania has shown that in the kinds of lands that the Trail passes thru, an average of 500 feet on each side of the Trail is necessary to preserve the basic hiking experience with a maximum of disruption both to the hiker and to the adjacent land use. This is much less than Benton MacKaye envisioned for the Trail, but it is one that experience has shown workable.

7. With regard to the authorization level for the Appalachian Trail: It is our feeling that sufficient monies should be authorized to allow finishing the protection of the Appalachian Trail. Supervision of the money spent and adjustment of the total when lands otherwise intended for purchase are protected by private donations or state purchases can be adjusted in the appropriation process. We see the authorization level as being primarily an indication that Congress intends to see the job through. Past experience has clearly indicated that the level of state and private commitment is very closely tied to the level of federal commitment. The higher the level of federal interest and commitment; the higher the commitment and interest in the states and also the higher the commitment in the citizen volunteer sector.

In closing I would like to thank the members of this committee for the time and energy they are putting into the consideration of this Bill. In particular I

would like to thank Congressman Goodle Byron for his leadership for well over ten years which is now culminating in his sponsorship of the Bill you have before you.

If the committee has any questions, I will be glad to respond to them either in my oral testimony or in writing.

I would like to thank this committee on behalf of the Appalachian Trail Conference and its member clubs and members for this chance to testify and would urge that every consideration be given to taking favorable action of H.R. 8803.

Thank you.

Senator DURKIN. Dr. Curry.

STATEMENT OF DR. RICHARD CURRY, CHIEF, OFFICE OF LEGISLATION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ACCOMPANIED BY DAVID RITCHIE

Dr. CURRY. With your permission, I would like to have Mr. Ritchie accompany me.

Chairman DURKIN. Of course.

Doctor, your full statement will be accepted for the record, and any statement your associate may wish to make, but in paraphrasing your statement I wish you could touch upon four questions that the subcommittee has.

One, has the Park Service used condemnation authority on the Appalachian Trail. Two, increased Federal land acquisition discouraged the State from implementing State programs to protect the trail. Three, the House measure requires an acquisition of a substantial portion of the land be completed within 3 years; is the Park Service able to carry that out within 3 years? And the fourth question, many adjacent landowners have indicated their concern about protection along the trail. How does the Park Service plan to manage the trail to take into consideration the concerns of the landowners?

Could you explain those?

Dr. CURRY. Is it the pleasure of the Chair to go directly to those questions and leave the statement as written?

Chairman DURKIN. Yes.

Dr. CURRY. Let me address first the condemnation authority on the Appalachian Trail and make the initial observation that in our judgment reading the House report and the intent of Congress, we really do not view this as anything out of the ordinary. We are not talking about an inholding situation in prior years where we could only acquire them on a willing buyer willing seller basis. In other words, the power of eminent domain is already vested in the National Park Service on this project. We are merely enlarging the sphere of its application. As far as the time frame is concerned, this is not new ground either in that Congress in many of the recent bills enacted has set specific time limits when they have hoped that we would complete our land acquisition program primarily because of the escalating costs of acquisitions and threats to the resources. We are moving down into a generation of land acquisitions for the National Park Service and other Federal agencies where the conflict between private development and rapidly diminishing open space are most evident.

We are now leaving our warm and comfortable sphere of creating parks out of the public domain and now looking at a combination of publicly and privately owned lands.

The National Park Service has not used, to the best of my knowledge, the eminent domain authority in the Appalachian Trail portion of the act at this time. The Forest Service has, but very sparingly.

The primary use for eminent domain in this situation and, frankly, across the board in Park Service use of acquisition authority granted by the Congress, has been to clear title or to work out a price differential where, between the property owner and the Federal agency, and not so much as necessarily a conflict, but merely as a means of reaching a price between the Federal agency and the private owner.

But I want to stress that the record of the National Park Service and the people that implement the land acquisition program in the National Park Service primarily work on a negotiated basis with the landowners. Ninety-seven percent of our actions in land acquisition result in a friendly consumation of a purchase between the property owner and the Federal Government.

It is only 3 percent, roughly, of the cases where the Park Service has ever been forced to go in to condemnation, and I might point out, even in these instances, it is generally for the purpose of clearing title or to negotiate a price.

In further respect to the experience so far, I think I should jump out of sequence here, and address the impact of the 3-year enactment on our land acquisition program. I listened very intently to Senator Hansen's concerns and the dialog between Congressman Robinson and Senator Mathias.

Clearly, by placing a 3-year time limit, Congress is indicating to the National Park Service that it considers this a priority program, but in our judgment it does not excuse us from proceeding in the same manner that we always deal with the landowner; that is, on a commonsense basis in our attempt to reach a friendly resolution of land acquisition.

We do not anticipate that a 3-year time period would increase the amount of instances where we would utilize the power of eminent domain, but clearly it does place a priority on both parties of negotiation that Congress is very serious about trying to resolve outstanding issues and it is a recognition that this bill or this proposal really is 9 years old. It is not new. The problems are not new. We are not going out and exploring new ground.

For the most part, the right-of-way is understood and known. Land escalation is a tremendous factor in the Park Service program, and the longer we delay the more money it is going to take to buy less and less.

I wish I had brought my chart with me on the unimproved properties and the improved in-holdings of the national park system. It is just staggering how the program has suffered through land escalation, and we are talking about a shrinkage of maybe 1,000 and 2,000 acres, and yet the price has doubled in terms of what we have to accomplish. But I want to lay to rest before the committee this question of the acceleration of 3 years and how we are going to sit down and talk with individual landowners, and I would like to second the observations of Congressman Robinson.

In Virginia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, we have had a very positive kind of program in terms of the States having the wherewithal to move reasonably quickly

on right-of-way purchases. This will, in our judgment, continue. Maryland is not going to back out of its responsibilities, nor will Massachusetts or any of the other States that have active ongoing programs. But the purpose of this legislation is to help some of the other States that have some specific problems of providing the where-withal to move in rapid enough fashion to meet the threats to the land.

The pictures there are self-explanatory in what is happening to the trail and what is happening to proposed rights-of-way. Our statement talks about 650 miles of trail that are on private lands where we need a legal right to remain, and 175 miles which follow roads and are absolutely unsafe, and I think contribute to perhaps some of the problems that were mentioned as fears by the landowners. I think a new standard right-of-way, by the way, would separate the user from the adjacent landowner.

I am just trying to pick out instead of reading a statement, just some things that I have heard and concerns expressed by you and other members here.

Senator DURKIN. Doctor, what is your experience with New Hampshire? You mentioned a lot of States on the trail. What have been the States that are having difficulty with having the where-withal? What has been the experience in New Hampshire from your point of view? I know I just got a State budget.

Mr. RITCHIE. Senator, perhaps I can speak to that. I did meet just 2 weeks ago in the State of New Hampshire with George Hamilton, the State parks director, and others. The State has worked out a desirable route for the trail. They have a program proposed for acquisitions along the trail, and have in their capital budget moneys to begin acquisition programs, but as you may recall, the capital items are no longer in the budget, so that there is no present capability in the State of New Hampshire for acquiring lands along the trail. There may be an opportunity for some donations from some of the larger landowners which could be used to obtain matching Federal funds to allow the State to make some acquisitions, but there are no capital moneys available at the moment.

Senator DURKIN. Thank you.

Dr. CURRY. Just to supplement Dave Ritchie's comments, we have been meeting with the Governors and the key trail coordinators of all the affected States along the trail, and so there has been an initial effort made by the administration to appraise each State of our concerns about the trail and our intentions on how we are going to proceed to protect that trail, including the recommendations that we would make to the Congress.

The one other question, I think, that was raised that I did not address, very quickly, has to do with adjacent landowners and their concern about protection along the trail.

Senator HANSEN. Their what, Doctor?

Dr. CURRY. Their concern about their protection of their property rights along the trail.

Rowdiness and fires were cited by Mr. Robinson, of Virginia. I think one very hopeful and positive thing that Congressman Robinson said was that the majority of the users are careful protectors of the trail. Many of the times that I have had the opportunity to hike

along the trail, I have noticed that littering, for example, is not a major problem along the trail. There may be some isolated instances. But how do we propose to manage and protect the trail? First of all, cooperative agreements in the past and in the future between the State governments, the Appalachian Trail Conference and its member clubs will continue to be the backbone of that excellent inter-governmental and voluntary cooperative effort that Senator Mathias applauds, and we do, too.

User education programs and trail patrols are the keys, too, in our judgment, of maintaining a clean and safe trail and providing protection for the local landowner.

We would have proprietary jurisdiction over the trail which means that we would be using local law enforcement officials to assist in the enforcement of the regulations.

As I mentioned very quickly earlier, we think the buffer width will reduce the conflict and the pressures between the user and the adjacent landowners. Not only will the buffer width provide a more enriching experience, I think it will also provide a very legitimate shield from the adjacent property owner.

Let me also clarify one other point. When we are talking about the width of the buffer and so forth—the increase of 125 acres per mile is really a recognition of past experience, of studies that have been done by sources outside the Federal Government. In the State of Pennsylvania, for example, in the practice of their acquiring land they found that whole tract acquisitions were preferable to most landowners. We recognize that there are some small ownership problems, and I will address those in a moment, but that in most instances the Forest Service has utilized up to and in some instances exceeded 1,000 feet.

Senator DURKIN. Could I interrupt here? We have a major problem in that Senator Hansen and I are due at two meetings at 10 o'clock. Could any other questions that we have, we could send them to you in writing and the record will be open, and your statement will be in the record, and anything you want to add will be incorporated in the record? We do have a couple of landowners from Virginia who drove in today for this hearing, and if we could get them started before Senator Hansen has to leave.

Dr. CURRY. I just wanted to answer your questions directly. We do not view the 3 years as an upsetting applet as to how we would deal with landowners or that the trail must be 1,000 feet in width. We have tried to avoid small ownerships. We are not intending to take anybody's house as a means. The only thing I cannot really answer for Mr. Robinson positively is that we cannot pay for fencing and those kinds of things. I think that is a very interesting concept that he has brought up, and a need that I do not think that we have the wherewithal to deal with right at the present time.

Senator DURKIN. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Curry follows:]

STATEMENT OF DR. RICHARD CURRY, CHIEF, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you concerning S. 2066 and H.R. 8803, which would provide the additional tools needed to protect the most threatened sections of the Appalachian Trail. The Department

strongly supports early enactment of this legislation, with suggested modifications.

Responsibility for the Appalachian Trail was assigned to the Secretary of the Interior by the National Trails System Act in 1968. That act established the framework for a Federal-State-private partnership for protection and administration of the trail. I am convinced that this partnership approach is the right one for the Appalachian Trail, although it will require a greater Federal commitment to be effective in providing adequate protection for the trail.

Nine years after passage of an act designed to assure a permanent place for the Appalachian Trail in our national system of parks and recreational preserves, 650 miles of the trail are on private land without a legal right to remain and another 175 miles follows roads for lack of a protected right-of-way. Threats to the integrity of the trail are widespread, from second home development and from the effects of suburban sprawl. Further delay in acquiring a right-of-way will make it very difficult to relocate the trail from roads and other undesirable locations in a number of key areas.

Because it has become clear that previous authority is inadequate to do a responsible job, we have not used the authority provided by the act to acquire lands to protect the trail outside existing Federal boundaries. Until recently, most States crossed by the trail have not given high priority to its protection.

There are, nonetheless, many positive aspects to report. The Appalachian Trail Conference and its member trail clubs continue as good stewards of the trail, providing most of the maintenance and facilities along its 2,000-mile length. A few of these clubs and individual members have even stepped in with key purchases to protect sections of the trail. Several States have active land acquisition programs for the trail. Notable among these is Maryland and its South Mountain Natural Environment Area, which when complete, will provide a protected corridor for the trail averaging nearly one-half mile in width—without the use of federal funds.

Despite these successes and considering the problems, I believe a consensus now exists that the Appalachian Trail can be protected adequately and within a reasonable time only with a substantial Federal acquisition program, complementing State programs and private philanthropy. The task ahead is simply too great and State resources, in the face of other urgent priorities, too limited, to continue to rely exclusively on State acquisition outside Federal boundaries.

I am convinced that the program reflected in S. 2066 and H.R. 8803 is sound. It would allow Federal acquisition to go forward rapidly in those sections which are most threatened by adverse development and where State acquisition programs are inadequate to meet the need. In addition, the program would permit acquisition of a corridor wide enough to protect the hiker from the sight and sound of conflicting, adjacent development.

We propose, however, that the \$89 million authorization in S. 2066 and the \$90 million authorization in H.R. 8803 be modified to provide a stronger incentive for State participation in trail acquisition. We recommend that the authorization be limited at this time to \$35 million, as originally proposed in H.R. 8803. Of this \$35 million, we recommend that one-half or \$17.5 million be reserved to furnish matching grants to the States. In this way, potentially \$52.5 million, counting State matching funds, would be available to protect the trail. Additional authorization would be sought if land acquisition studies now in progress demonstrates that the need exists.

We are proposing a 1,000-foot corridor concept. This concept is based on studies prepared under contract by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is presently guiding land acquisition by that State along the Appalachian Trail. The studies demonstrate how to calculate distances needed to avoid significant visual and acoustic intrusions on the hiker experience from adjacent, conflicting development, depending on vegetation and land forms.

The "1,000-foot," however, refers only to the maximum that would be acquired under eminent domain proceedings and does not imply that a uniform strip of that width would be acquired. Corridor width would vary depending on topography and the availability of undeveloped land, usually not exceeding 1,000 feet. A corridor in excess of 1,000 feet might be acquired where landowners prefer to sell whole tracts or where the trail crosses especially significant resources and an opportunity exists to protect them more adequately than a 1,000-foot acquisition would permit.

We recommend that the proposed amendments to section 5 of the act concerning the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Advisory Council not be enacted.

ANSTAC has been an effective body under present law. It was rechartered by the Secretary of the Interior for a 2-year period in December 1976 and OMB has recommended that it be continued.

Mr. Chairman, it would be possible to go on at length about the vital place of the Appalachian Trail in our national heritage, its importance as a recreational resource along our increasingly urban eastern seaboard and its value as a model of citizen involvement in a major national undertaking. The need for the solitude, beauty and physical activity offered by the Appalachian Trail is very great for the 90 million individuals living within a day's drive of the trail. Its value to future generations can only increase.

The amendments to the National Trails System Act in S. 2066 and H.R. 8803, modified as we propose, are badly needed and time is of the essence. We would expect to follow through with requests for appropriations and to begin acquiring lands to protect the trail at the earliest possible date.

I will be glad to answer any questions you or members of the subcommittee may have at this time.

Senator DURKIN. I guess Mrs. Brown is next. Both of you, your full statements will be printed in the record and incorporated in the record, and the record will be left open for a period of 10 days, if there is anything else you would like to add.

Before you start I must apologize on behalf of myself and Senator Hansen. We may have to leave before you are through, but the staff assistants may have some questions.

STATEMENT OF CLARA BROWN, MIDDLETOWN, MD.

Mrs. BROWN. My statement is brief.

I wish to express my appreciation for—to this committee for granting me the opportunity to appear as an opposing witness at this hearing. I am here as a representative of the people who reside within a half mile area on either side of the Appalachian Trail. We are residents of Frederick and Washington Counties in the State of Maryland. Our area is designated by State and county laws as a conservation area. This imposes a limitation of only one dwelling per 5 acres. The only exceptions being those homes that existed prior to the passage of our conservation laws. We are severely limited in the ways in which we may use our properties. Concerning the trail, we feel that we are granting the privilege of having a public footpath through our countryside, and we, in turn, expect our elected and tax-supported officials to respect our rights to ownership of private property without the constant threats of harassment and condemnation.

I would like to call the committee's attention to the fact that the National Trails System Act of 1968, section 5 PP-1, states that "the Appalachian Trail shall be administered as a footpath." It is our contention that the present allowable acquisition of 25 acres per mile which permits a maximum 200-foot corridor is more than adequate for the protection of a footpath. The contention that an average corridor of 200 feet encourages speculation and conflicting developments within sight and sound of the trail, would seem to indicate a need for better management and patrol of the existing 200 feet rather than worsening the problem by increasing the width of the corridor. We can understand the need for an increase in the amount of money required for maintenance of the trail and police protection of both hikers and residents, but, more is not necessarily better and the acquisition of more land can only serve to exacerbate problems by extending them over a larger area.

Therefore, we are emphatically opposed to Senator Mathias' and Congressman Byron's proposals to increase the limitation on the use of the power of eminent domain from 25 acres in any 1 mile to 125 acres in any 1 mile.

Our State enjoys the reputation for having one of the most successful programs in the Nation for the preservation and development of the Appalachian Trail. Our Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the inhabitants within the area of the trail have enjoyed a harmonious and cooperative relationship.

We are proud of our trail. However, we are aware of the fact that the trail runs through other States where acquisition has not been as successful. To this end, we would recommend that the areas through which the trail runs, be designated conservation areas. Such areas would not permit future alterations or development within 100 feet of either side of the trail. The character of such areas would be determined by the character of the surroundings existing at the time of the enactment of the legislation. The States and counties would determine what best suited the needs of a trail conservation area within this protectorate and methods of acquisition would be those prescribed in section 7, paragraphs (d) through (h), of the National Trails Systems Act.

We would like to convey to this committee the anger, suspicions, and fears that these bills have engendered in our State alone. We can find no explanation for the fact that we were never notified nor asked to participate in any discussions concerning legislation which, surely, this committee can understand, is of acute concern to us. When we learned of the proposed legislation we were told that there would be plenty of time for our legislators to meet with us to reach an understanding of mutual needs and goals. We had hoped to coordinate with landowner associations in other States on the trail so that we could prepare a unified statement to make the task easier for this committee.

Because time was so short, we beg this committee's indulgence for any lack of professionalism in our report. We had no lawyers, no staffs, just ourselves, and very little time.

Thank you.

I would like to make a comment. Now, Congressman Robinson referred to a draft agreement between the State of Maryland and landowners along the Appalachian Trail during his statement, and he said that he was very much interested in this agreement. I think that I can answer to that. I was present at a meeting in Congressman Byron's office on Thursday of this past week, and Fred Eskew, the Director of Land Acquisition for Maryland, Department of Natural Resources, attended, and when this draft agreement Mr. Byron had had his staff draw up—this 1-page agreement—and when it was presented to Fred Eskew, he stated that this kind of agreement was not feasible, that it would—that an agreement would have to go to the Advocate General of the State of Maryland, would require an enormous amount of time and study, and then be 25 pages of very small print which the landowners would not understand. Therefore, I think that Congressman Robinson's referral to the agreement—it should be explained to him that this agreement evidentially is not forthcoming. However, in our case, in the State of Maryland, the Director of Land Acquisition is going to send a letter to each landowner within the area of the trail

assuring them that the State had no interest in going into the real estate business, acquiring homes or property. All they wanted was to maintain the trail in its present state, and such a letter would be issued to the landowners.

Senator HANSEN [presiding]. Mrs. Brown, thank you very much. On the second page of your statement you say :

However, we are aware of the fact that the trail runs through other States where acquisition has not been as successful. To this end, we would recommend that the areas through which the trail runs be designated conservation areas. Such areas would not permit future alterations or development within 100 feet of either side of the trail.

Let me explore what you recommend here with you. How do you recommend that this designation of conservation areas be accomplished ?

Mrs. BROWN. I would assume, sir, that this would be accomplished in the same fashion in which our State has accomplished it. We are, as I mentioned, in a conservation area.

Senator HANSEN. Are you thinking of—

Mrs. BROWN. I am saying, in other words, I am not a lawyer and I am saying that if a conservation area could be established it could be defined on a cooperative basis, I would hope, between the Federal and State officials who would be involved.

Senator HANSEN. Would you think that the Federal Government would be a participant in declaring this band or corridor be a conservation area simply by saying so that would—

Mrs. BROWN. Well, sir, I do not really know what the legal—

Senator HANSEN. Specifically, what I want to know is, as a landowner, would you be receptive to the diminution in your rights as a property owner—

Mrs. BROWN. Diminution, did I say ?

Senator HANSEN. Yes; I guess the State has already done it, as I understand it.

Mrs. BROWN. Exactly.

Senator HANSEN. But, it would seem to me that if the Federal Government were to do that and, of course, our concern in this legislation must be to set parameters and to establish criteria that would be used in trying to implement a national purpose or a national objective.

Mrs. BROWN. Yes; I understand that.

Senator HANSEN. Do you think that the Federal Government should just say to landowners, this is a conservation area and, as a consequence, within the 100 feet of trail you cannot build or you cannot do certain other things, that the typical landowner would have a right to do where he is in that particular situation ?

Mrs. BROWN. Well, sir, I do not know. I cannot speak from the top of my head. I would have to think. I am a muller, and I would have to think about that. I understand that the Federal Government—there is a problem there because we are then touching on the sovereign right of the States. Now this much I understand.

Senator HANSEN. Well, I should think if I should say so, you might be touching on the constitutional rights of a landowner as well. At least that would be my feeling.

Mrs. BROWN. Well, I suppose so. I can only speak to our situation. That is that our State has established our area as a conservation area. We are limited to one dwelling per 5 acres, and we are severely limited as to what we may do within that area, and we are satisfied with that. Now, as I said, I do not know what might happen in Wyoming or New Hampshire or anyplace else. I really do not know. I cannot speak to it.

Senator HANSEN. I do not think I have any further questions.

Thank you, Mrs. Brown.

Mrs. BROWN. Thank you so much.

Senator HANSEN. Before I call the next witness, Mr. Crenshaw, let me observe that I am going to have to leave. I have an executive committee meeting in the Finance Committee to decide what changes are going to be made to try to keep the social security fund solvent. So if I may, I would like to ask Miss Beaty to chair the hearing at this point and to assure those witnesses not yet heard that we are keenly interested in what their testimony may present in the way of ideas, and as Mr. Durkin indicated, the record will be kept open.

Very probably there will be questions to submit to those witnesses in writing, and their response solicited in writing so that they can be included in the record.

I am sorry that I am going to have to go, but as my good friend from Virginia knows, that is the way it is. So if you would not mind taking over.

Miss BEATY. Thank you, Senator.

Mr. Crenshaw, do you want to come to the table, please? You may begin, if you wish. Your complete statement will be made a part of the record.

**STATEMENT OF JOEL R. CRENSHAW, CLARK COUNTY, MD.,
ACCOMPANIED BY ROY DONAHUE**

Mr. CRENSHAW. With your permission, I have with me a neighbor and landowner, Mr. Donahue, and I have a very brief statement, and then he has a statement he wishes to make.

I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the proposed Appalachian Trail amendment to the National Trail Systems Act. My remarks generally reflect the attitudes of landowners in our area and support remarks made by Congressman Robinson and a separate statement for the record submitted by Mr. Donahue. We are concerned about three provisions of H.R. 8803: Paragraph (4) which would amend section 7(g) of the act to increase the width of the trail; paragraph (5) which would amend section 10 of the act to authorize \$30 million annually for land acquisition; and the potential use of the Federal Government's power of eminent domain.

Perhaps the best way to express our specific concerns is to relate our experiences with efforts to site the Appalachian Trail in our area over the last 9 years.

Since 1968 when the National Trails System Act became law, the Department of Interior and the Virginia Division of Parks, part of Virginia's Department of Conservation and Economic Development, have proposed several routes which would require use of our land and that

of our neighbors. One route would have passed through my living room; another route would have passed through the yard of my nearest neighbor; yet another route would have taken the main water source for cattle which graze on my property and that of one of my neighbors; and other routes would have passed by Mr. Donahue's sundeck, cut off my access road, or passed within 200 feet of my home and passed under the back porch of yet another neighbor. Other remarks will be submitted by some of my neighbors.

In general, each route proposed would have, in some fashion, either taken our living quarters from us or greatly infringed in our privacy and security from trespass. Fortunately, route proposals of this nature were revised by Interior and Virginia Parks officials once such problems became known. The most recent route proposed seems to have been more carefully considered and may be acceptable if certain conditions are met.

It is my own personal impression that earlier route proposals were considered only from the hikers' view while recent route proposals reflect more of a balance between the hiker and landowner interest.

I might also add that we mountain folk, if you can call us that, up on the Blue Ridge, have an attitude which says, the trail is an intrusion upon the way in which we keep our properties in a natural state. You might find that contradictory, but if you were to live up there and, like us, keep properties like we have in their natural states, I think you might appreciate our view.

The point of this brief recitation is twofold: First, that landowner opposition to the trail, in our vicinity at least, stems not from our status as land barons or speculative land developers, which we are not, but from concern for loss of our homes, privacy and security. These are justifications every American should understand and appreciate. Second, that the homeowner/landowner has, so far, not been promised any protection of privacy or security from trespass in negotiations for his property desired for dedication to trail use. To date, we are told, there have been no funds available to provide such protection.

There are trail routes in our areas that, if selected, could probably meet specifications for trail use as well as afford protection to the homeowner/landowner provided that the trail was properly secured so that hikers could not wander off onto private property and nearby homes.

I am a hiker myself and I can tell you that hikers do wander some distance.

The language of the bill before you, in paragraph 5 should provide for Federal payment for the cost of securing the privacy of landowners adjacent to the trail whether by construction of fences or by other means. Without such a specific provision, the bill is one-sided—speaking only to the security and protection of the trail. We think our rights to privacy and peaceful enjoyment of our property should receive equal consideration.

We also support the remarks of Congressman Sebelius of Kansas who stated (p. H11430 of Congressional Record, Oct. 25, 1977):

* * * no feature of this change (Paragraph (4) of H.R. 8803) should be construed to intend an opportunity to exercise such authority carelessly as it affects the rights of compatible adjacent or affected landowners * * *.

In this respect, paragraph (4) of the bill before you should contain language which would prevent use of the 15-per-acre-per-mile rule to

change existing land use of private property adjacent to the trail. In this respect, I think I am in specific support of comments made by the previous witness and comments made by Congressman Robinson. Such language is needed to balance competing sides of the public interest. Private homeowners/landowners along the trail route are as much members of the public as are users of the trail.

Finally, it must be said that the time taken so far to acquire land for the trail merely reflects a keen awareness by State officials (at least in Virginia) of the competing interests involved and the need to avoid uprooting and relocation of families and homesteads wherever possible. Even so, land to complete about 90 percent of the trail has already been acquired since 1968. Thus, we are concerned that should the Federal Government now use its powers of eminent domain, the need to carefully consider the relevant rights of landowners will be lost in the process. The legislation before you needs to emphasize the judicious use of such power and then only as a last resort.

One last comment, if I may, with regard to the attitude implied here toward the Federal Government in my last statement, at one stage, one of my neighbors had a written promise from the Department of Interior that the routes to be proposed for the Appalachian Trail would not pass along his property. Such written statement came after a lengthy consultation between my neighbor and the Department of Interior officials. The very next route that was proposed went straight across his property, through his pond, and by his home. So we are very anxious to keep the matter within the State, in the Parks Commission. We do believe that matters can be worked out probably within the 3-year period if all sides of the issue are considered.

Miss BEATY. Thank you, Mr. Crenshaw.

Can the Park Service respond to the last problem Mr. Crenshaw mentioned about a commitment on not having a trail run across the property?

Mr. DONAHUE. I wish it would, because a good portion of that property is not mine.

Miss BEATY. Are you familiar with that?

Dr. CURRY. I do not know the precise comment, although I would note that many of the statements that we made earlier in the statement were subsequently qualified, I do know that the original trail projections sometimes were made on maps and so forth, and when they were located on the ground those corrections were made. I just want to make sure that the committee understood very clearly that the witness did refine his statement later on and noted that the examples cited were correct. I would be glad to look into this particular situation of the written commitment. I am not personally aware of that.

Mr. RITCHIE. Perhaps I could add just briefly that so far the route definition/acquisition process in the Commonwealth of Virginia has been a State project. There has not been any Federal participation.

Miss BEATY. In the context of Mr. Crenshaw's statements regarding funds available for protection of the trail, can you respond to that again, Dr. Curry, on how the park system plans to manage the trail?

Dr. CURRY. To my knowledge, we do not have, and this is what I referred to earlier, we do not have authority to expend the funds for fencing. I mentioned earlier in a statement, I think that is a subject that bears further consideration by the committee.

MISS BEATY. Will there be agreements worked out between the Federal Government and the States involved?

DR. CURRY. Well, in terms of protection, management of the trail, law enforcement, these items are clearly within our authority and would be the subject of cooperative agreements both with State officials and through the volunteer organizations that presently maintain and control sections of the trail that rest outside federally owned properties.

We obviously maintain and do a considerable amount of trailwork within boundaries of either the national park system or the national forest system.

But I thought the question was addressed specifically to whether or not there would be funds made available to assist the homeowner in, let's say, separating livestock from trail use or something like that.

MR. CRENSHAW. May I comment further on that?

MISS BEATY. Yes.

MR. CRENSHAW. In my comments I specifically recommended that very specific language go into the funds allocation paragraph that funds could be used for this purpose. That would remove any problem that Park and Interior would have in terms of interpretation.

May I also add that I think as a result of that it will cost the Federal Government less money to go about completing the trail. If I can give you an example in my own case, there is one route that I might accept. I might accede the land without cost if there were fencing provided, and believe me, the fencing is a whole lot cheaper than buying that land.

MISS BEATY. Is that land, now, most of it in farmed state?

MR. CRENSHAW. It is wooded.

MISS BEATY. I have a couple of questions I would like to ask you further, and I would like your permission to submit further questions if the committee sees fit to do that.

What has your experience been with hikers? This is not only yourself, but in Virginia.

MR. CRENSHAW. My own personal experience with hikers has been generally good. I find that they do wander. As I said, I am a hiker from time to time, and I do wander as well.

MISS BEATY. Is it the general feeling of the people that you are representing that the Appalachian Trail should be protected, and I am not talking about the extent, just in general, should it be protected?

MR. CRENSHAW. I think the general feeling of my neighbors is that the trail is an intrusion upon the natural state of the mountain as it is now. Not the trail itself, but because it would draw hikers.

MISS BEATY. I want to thank you both for your statements. Thank you for coming here this morning.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Donahue follows:]

STATEMENT OF LEROY W. DONAHUE, JR., ARLINGTON, VA.

My name is Leroy W. Donahue Jr. of Arlington, Virginia. I also own a home and 15 acres in Clarke County, Virginia where I intend to retire. I am here to give support to Representative Robinson's statement and to the statement of my friend and neighbor in Clarke County, Mr. Joel Crenshaw.

While I personally support the idea of an Appalachian Trail I am against H.R. 8803. H.R. 8803 says much about spending large amounts of money for the acquisition of land but nothing is said of protecting the small property owner with land and/or a home adjacent to the Appalachian Trail. The Trail should be routed away from existing homes wherever possible.

Congressman Sebelius of Kansas has stated (page H11430 of Congressional Record, October 25, 1977) :

"Moreover, the feature of the 1968 law requiring that any condemned right-of-way be only by the most direct route is removed. . . ."

H.R. 8803, at least in my view, is in error by removing this language. It seems to me that the trail routing should pass where it was originally intended to pass. Where the trail routing cannot be changed and it must pass near existing houses, some sort of protection must be afforded those properties by either fencing or other appropriate means. Either additional funds should be made available for this purpose or a portion of the funds already earmarked for acquisition should be allocated for protecting properties close to the trail. My house has been broken into once this year. I have no certitude that the break-in was done by a hiker but on the other hand it may have been a hiker.

I would respectfully request that the subcommittee carefully examine the reasons why the park service was not able to manage an existing trail when the 1968 law read 25 acres per mile. Changing the law to 125 acres per mile seems to push the trail off the large landowners with huge development potential and the political and financial wherewithall to resist attempts to cross their land down upon the small, less protected individuals such as myself and my neighbors in Clarke County.

I support the remarks of Congressman Burton of California (page H11429 of Congressional Record, October 25, 1977) who has advocated :

" . . . an active and sensible management (of the trail) by the national park service."

This management should also protect the nearby small property owners. This protection is not given by H.R. 8803 as currently written.

Thank you.

Miss BEATY. As Senator Durkin said, the record will remain open for 10 days to receive any other comments, and the hearing is concluded, subject to the call of the Chair.

[Whereupon, at 10:20 a.m. the committee recessed, subject to the call of the Chair.]

APPENDIX

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

STATEMENT OF RUTH E. BLACKBURN, POTOMAC APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

I am Ruth E. Blackburn, trail ownership researcher for the PATC, a member of the Board of Managers of the ATC, and a member of the Appalachian National Scenic Trails Council.

The amendments to the National Scenic Trails Act seem an excellent extension to the legislation. I have been involved in one way or another with the four states through which our section of the AT goes. I would like to speak to conflict with existing homes in the trail corridor. This includes southern Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia and northern Virginia.

A study of the maps shows that along roads, including rural roads, there are homes on small lots. The AT must pass close to these homes for perhaps 200 feet until the woodland begins. In Maryland I note only four-year round dwellings except for two in Greenbrier State Park acquisition lines.

In Virginia-West Virginia at the AT crossing of Rt. 9 there is a cluster of homes on the road. Farther south developments so far have not reached the higher elevations. There is time to acquire up to the suggested one thousand foot protective zone along the top of the ridge. No homes are threatened. Another subdivision has already bowed to county zoning for the AT and has not returned with a new, lower density plan.

The Appalachian Trail project needs authorization for extending the width of acquisition before more homes are constructed which would change the character of the area of the Appalachian Trail and be extremely costly to acquire.

STATEMENT OF BETTY MANN GATES, FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA.

My name is Betty M. Gates and I presently reside in Fairfax County, Virginia. I also own a home and 216 acres in Clarke County, Virginia. My family and I intend to move to this home in Clarke County in the near future.

I am writing this letter to show my opposition to H.R. 8803. Since it has been proposed in the past that the Appalachian Trail cross my property I feel concerned that my rights be protected. In my opinion, H.R. 8803 does not adequately protect the small property owner. Despite spending large amounts of money for the acquisition of land for the trail, no provision is made for the protection of property from vandalism, rowdyism, littering and fire hazards, etc. Furthermore, it appears little if any consideration has been given to routing the trail away from houses and other private and essential structures.

For example, one proposed route of the trail still being considered would place the trail directly over the spring from which I get all my drinking water. The landowners should be protected from such irresponsible planning and acts. Either additional funds should be made available or a portion of the proposed funds for acquisition should be set aside for protecting properties close to the trail. No such provisions presently exist within H.R. 8803.

As a minimum, I support Representative J. Kenneth Robinson's statement and the statement made by Joel Crenshaw to the subcommittee on November 1, 1977.

While I personally support the idea of an Appalachian Trail, I feel that the property owner is entitled to certain rights and protection. These rights and protections are not given by H.R. 8803 as currently written.

NEW YORK CHAPTER, INC.,
ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB, INC.,
River Vale, N.J., October 24, 1977.

Senator ABOUREZK,
Chairman, Parks Subcommittee of Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: I must commend you for your recent efforts in attempting to compel the Senate to rethink and to establish a meaningful energy program for all Americans. Though your efforts may not have succeeded you have spotlighted the perils of the plan passed by the Senate. Perhaps your thoughts and proposals will yet be incorporated into the final House-Senate version of the Bill.

As Chairman of the New York Chapter, Inc. of The Adirondack Mountain Club, Inc. I urgently request that you schedule hearings on S. 2066, a Bill to amend the National Trails System Act.

This is a timely and wonderful opportunity to preserve and restore the Appalachian Trail which provides recreation to millions of Americans. Many sections of the Trail are threatened by urban sprawl. It seems that local government—be it municipal, county or state—seems to be incapable of dealing with the problem.

This Bill will provide the money and authority to acquire the necessary right of way where required. Of equal importance is that the Trail will continue to be maintained by volunteers. As a matter of fact this Chapter maintains a section of the Trail near Tuxedo, New York.

Will you please schedule the hearings necessary to allow this Bill to move forward. It is a Bill for all Americans both present and future.

Very truly yours,

JOHN J. PAPIRO, *Chairman.*

RAMAPO CHAPTER OF THE ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB,
Pearl River, N.Y.

Hon. JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: Adirondack Mountain Club is a hiking club with chapters throughout the state. The 246 members of the Ramapo Chapter reside in close proximity to the portion of the Appalachian Trail that crosses the Hudson River and continues west and south.

The Chapter has asked me to convey to you our strong support of S. 2066, legislation that would appropriate money for federal acquisition of a corridor for the Appalachian Trail.

The rapid growth of our group in its five years of existence is in itself proof of the growing popularity of hiking as a sport. Along with members of other hiking clubs we gladly do our share of volunteer trail maintenance and cleanup. But we are aware that increasing stretches of the Appalachian Trail are on highways because private land owners withdraw permission for trail use. Public ownership of the trail is a necessity if we are indeed to have a footpath from Maine to Georgia.

Respectfully yours,

MARY R. SIVE, *Chairperson.*

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY,
Camp Hill, Pa., November 8, 1977.

Hon. JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman, Subcommittee of Parks and Recreation, Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

(Attention Ms. Laura Beaty).

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: The purpose of this letter is to submit testimony regarding Senate Bill 2066 and House Resolution 8803 before your subcommittee.

The Appalachian Audubon Society is the local chapter of the National Audubon Society in the area surrounding Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and has a membership of 1,300 persons. More than 60 miles of the Appalachian Trail is within the area covered by our local chapter.

The National Appalachian Trails Act as embodied in S.B. 2066 and H.R. 8803 is needed to protect the Appalachian Trail and preserve it, not only as a

foot path, but as an unbroken strip of natural habitat along which one may return to nature. This act will encourage the preservation of land and easements. This support is vital if we are to preserve the Trail and the experience it can bring for this and future generations.

We therefore heartily support the National Appalachian Trails Acts, S.B. 2066 and H.R. 8803.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our opinion for this hearing. We request that our views become part of your records.

Very truly yours,

HENRY DEH. ALEXANDER,
Conservation Chairman.

APPALACHIAN OUTFITTERS,
Oakton, Va., November 8, 1977.

Re H.R. 8803. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act and to protect the appalachian trail.

PARKS AND RECREATION SUBCOMMITTEE,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE: I have watched with interest the progress of H.R. 8803 in the House and its passage on October 25 by a vote of 409 to 12. I have been informed of the hearings held by the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee of the Senate on November 1, 1977.

Much of the discussion that has taken place in these and previous hearings centers around the recreational benefits enjoyed by the hikers viz a viz the rights of landowners and speculators not wishing to either sell the land they own or to have land values decrease because of the proximity of the Appalachian Trail. I respectfully submit that those of us engaged in the manufacture and retailing of outdoor equipment also have a tremendous stake in the availability of hiking trails of which the Appalachian Trail is the most famous.

I am the president of a corporation which both manufactures and retails outdoor recreation equipment in four Eastern states: Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina and Ohio. Perhaps 85 percent of our business is directly related to the existence of hiking trails. Other organizations which have moved into the manufacturing and sale of outdoor recreation equipment in recent years are General Mills, Johnson Wax and Grace Steamship Lines.

In addition to my business interest, I have a direct personal interest in the Appalachian Trail—having hiked parts of it myself and having led members of Boy Scout troops on hikes over various parts of it.

I think it deplorable that the Department of Interior has failed to acquire any part of the Appalachian Trail right-of-way in the nine years since the law (Public Law 90-543) was passed in October, 1968. I urge that the Subcommittee report this bill favorably to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Sincerely,

DANIEL R. COUCH,
President, Appalachian Outfitters.

ATHENS BANK & TRUST,
November 8, 1977.

HON. JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: Please add my name to those who support the prompt passage of House Bill 8803 (Senate Bill 2066) to protect the Appalachian Trail by appropriate funding, widening the Trail corridor, and continuing the Trail Advisory Council. The Appalachian Trail is a valuable natural resource which is beneficial now and which will yield a stream of benefits to future generations. To protect those benefits and to preserve the Trail's remote and wilderness nature immediate federal support is needed. Private support for the Trail is evidenced by the volunteer efforts of thousands of Americans who have given freely of their time and money to develop and maintain it. As one who has hiked the entire Trail, I can attest to its beauty and to its value. As a volunteer who maintains the southernmost section of the Trail, Springer Mountain, Georgia, I can attest to the increasingly heavy use it receives.

I hope that you will press for early consideration and passage of this bill. Please add my comments to the public record.

Sincerely,

EDWARD B. SELBY, JR.,
Director.

COLLEGE ALUMNI HIKING CLUB,
New York, N.Y., November 16, 1977.

HON. JAMES ABOUREZK,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR: We should like to express our support for S. 2066 which would appropriate \$89 million to permit the National Park Service to acquire land to ensure a permanent corridor for the Appalachian Trail.

This famous trail, which means so much to hikers and all who love the beauty of unspoiled natural surroundings, is not protected in many areas because it is on private land. Acquisition of this land by the Park Service would preserve the Trail for the use of all.

We hope you will use your influence to have this bill approved in your committee, and passed in the Senate.

Very truly yours,

ESTHER E. WEITZ,
Corresponding Secretary.

THE COMMITTEE FOR A RESPONSIVE PARK COMMISSION,
New York, N.Y., November 8, 1977.

DEAR SENATOR: You may soon have an opportunity to vote on S. 2066 which would provide an appropriation for the National Park Service to secure a permanent corridor for the Appalachian Trail.

We urge your support for this measure so that those of us who use this 2,000 mile long mountain footpath do not see its unusual scenic and recreational value further diminished by the encroachment of civilization.

Very truly yours,

THOMAS L. HOFFMAN,
Chairman.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES,
Harrisburg, Pa., November 2, 1977.

MS. LAURA BEATY,
*Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MS. BEATY: Yesterday, I received word that the Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation is considering legislation designed to protect the Appalachian Trail (S. 2066). For a number of years, the Citizens Advisory Council has supported initiatives at the State level to protect the portion of the trail that passes through Pennsylvania and, although significant progress has been made during the past year, it is clear that the Federal legislation would be a significant boost for these efforts.

Sincerely,

THOMAS G. McCLOSKEY, *Executive Director.*

THE DECATUR PUBLISHING CO., INC.,
Decatur, Ind., November 11, 1977.

HON. JAMES ABOUREZK,
*Dirksen Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

Subject: H.R. 8803 National Trails System Act Amendment.

DEAR SIR: I strongly favor H.R. 8803 as proposed. I am 48 years o'd, publisher of a small daily newspaper in Decatur, Indiana. In 1973, I took six months and two days to hike the entire Appalachian Trail from Georgia, north to Maine.

In the past half century, I have hiked in every one of the 50 states at some time or another, including 150 miles of the Buckeye Trail in Ohio; Platte National Park in Oklahoma; most of the St. Joe National Forest in northern Idaho where I worked three summers; Philmont Ranch in New Mexico, as well as the mountains around Santa Fe, and the national wildlife refuge just south of there; the Cumberland Falls area in Kentucky; Mt. Rushmore and the Black Hills in South Dakota; the White Mountains of New Hampshire several times; the Yellowstone and Grand Teton regions of Wyoming; the Pikes Peak and Rocky Mountain National Parks in Colorado, where I have helped build the cross-Colorado trail; the Olympic peninsula and Mt. Rainier areas in Washington, as well as the Palouse area; Cameron Parish in Louisiana; the Lake Mead and Death Valley areas in Nevada; several volcanic areas in Hawaii; Glacier-Waterton Lakes Peace Park and many other areas in Montana, and the Klamath region in Oregon, to mention only a few.

I personally maintain, as a member of the Carolina Mountain Club, an eight-mile segment of the Appalachian Trail north of Hot Springs, North Carolina. I drive down there two or three times each year to clear it, and be sure that it is ready for travel.

I have never hiked that section without running into other hikers—usually ten or fifteen. And that includes spring, summer, fall, yes, even winter! They are from every state, and of every age. Some are students, young and inexperienced, some are older, using their resources to see their country, some are rich, and some are poor. But they all melt in together on the trail, and draw our country together—something that it seems to need very badly.

To preserve the pioneer spirit of America, we desperately need the Appalachian Trail, and the National Trails System.

The permanent corridor is an absolute necessity. It will never be easier to obtain than right now! It is getting more expensive each day that Congress fails to agree on H.R. 8803!

The economic meaning of the trail to the 14 states through which it passes—the social meaning of the trail, in its “mixing” of Americans (and occasionally even foreigners—I met an Australian, an Englishman, etc.) cannot be overestimated.

I strongly urge you to pass the bill without amendment.

Sincerely,

DICK D. HELLER, Jr., *President.*

THE DECATUR PUBLISHING CO., INC.,
Decatur, Ind., November 14, 1977.

Subject: H.R. 8803 National Trails System Act Amendment.

Senator HENRY M. JACKSON,
*Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

Dear SENATOR JACKSON: I strongly favor H.R. 8803 as proposed. I am 48 years old, publisher of a small daily newspaper in Decatur, Indiana. In 1973, I took six months and two days to hike the entire Appalachian Trail from Georgia, north to Maine. In the past half century, I have hiked in every one of the 50 states at some time or another, including 150 miles of the Buckeye Trail in Ohio; Platte National Park in Oklahoma; most of the St. Joe National Forest in northern Idaho, where I worked three summers; Philmont Ranch in New Mexico, as well as the mountains around Santa Fe, and the national wildlife refuge just south of there; the Cumberland Falls area in Kentucky; Mt. Rushmore and the Black Hills in South Dakota; the White Mountains of New Hampshire several times; the Yellowstone and Grand Teton regions of Wyoming; the Pikes Peak and Rocky Mountain National Parks in Colorado, where I have helped build the cross-Colorado trail; the Olympic peninsula and Mt. Rainier area in Washington; as well as the Palouse area; Cameron Parish in Louisiana; the Lake Mead and Death Valley areas in Nevada; several volcanic areas in Hawaii; Glacier-Waterton Lakes Peace Park and many other areas in Montana; and the Klamath region in Oregon, to mention only a few.

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I have never hiked that section without running into other hikers—usually ten or fifteen. And that includes spring, summer, fall, yes, even winter! They are from every state, and of every age. Some are students, young and inexperienced, some are older, using their resources to see their country, some are rich, and some are poor. But, they all melt in together on the trail, and draw our country together—something that it seems to need very badly.

To preserve the pioneer spirit of America, we desperately need the Appalachian Trail, and the National Trails System.

The permanent corridor is an absolute necessity. It will never be easier to obtain than right now! It is getting more expensive every day that Congress fails to agree on H.R. 8803!

The economic meaning of the trail to the 11 states through which it passes—the social meaning of the trail, in its “mixing” of Americans (and occasionally even foreigners—I met an Australian, an Englishman, etc.) cannot be overestimated.

I strongly urge you to pass the bill without amendment.

Sincerely,

DICK D. HELLER, Jr., *President.*

THE GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION OF PENNSYLVANIA,
Camp Hill, Pa., November 2, 1977.

HON. JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Washington, D.C.

Dear SENATOR ABOUREZK: The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania was one of the original thirteen state garden club federations which met in 1929 to form the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. Our two major purposes when National Council, Inc. was formed were, the conservation of natural resources and the elevation of horticultural standards throughout the United States of America.

In the interest of preservation of the Appalachian Trail and on behalf of our 14,000 members, I respectfully request that the following resolution be included in the testimony of the Public Hearing Nov. 1, 1977 on Senate Bill 2066, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Act:

Resolved the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania, representing over 14,000 citizens of the Commonwealth does hereby go on record in support of the urgent need to preserve and protect the historic Appalachian Trail. In 1968 the Appalachian Trail was declared one of the first National Scenic Trails by the Congress of the United States. Support for the Scenic Trails System is one of the top priorities of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania and the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. National Council, Inc. represents over one half million members.

Sincerely,

Mrs. H. ELMER WARNER, *President.*

HOT SPRINGS YOUTH & HIKERS' HOSTEL,
Hot Springs, N.C., October 31, 1977.

U.S. SENATE,
Parks and Recreation Committee,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: I am informed that your subcommittee of the U.S. Senate is now working on Senate Bill S. 2066 which has to do with the acquiring of property to save the Appalachian Trail. We are doing all we can to preserve the “Trail” and help serve and put up the hikers on the “Trail.” I would like to support strongly S. 2066. Please do all you can to see it pass the full Senate.

Thank you for your interest.

Yours truly,

Ft. JEFF BURTON, S. J.

THE INTERSTATE HIKING CLUB,
Northvale, N.J., October 28, 1977.

HON. JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

In behalf of the Interstate Hiking Club, founded 1931 active from that date on in New Jersey and New York, and consisting of a membership of 113. We strongly recommend the approval of the bill No. S 2066 in the Senate. We used and helped maintain the Appalachian Trail in all those years.

We hope that the bill passes the Senate, that we and our children will be able to continue to enjoy the beauty of the Appalachian Trail.

Sincerely,

WINNIFRED FRANCKE, *Secretary.*

THE LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATION LEGISLATION,
Teaneck, N.J., November 3, 1977.

HON. JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairperson, Subcommittee on Parks & Recreation,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: At the October meeting of the Board of Directors of the League for Conservation Legislation, it was unanimously decided to support S-2066 regarding acquisition of land for the Appalachian Trail. The League, a state-wide environmental lobby, urges support of such a bill, for it would protect and enhance the trails system in a region which currently lacks adequate open space and recreational areas. With 40 percent of the land in private lands and approximately 40 acres in roads, adequate safeguards are necessary.

Of the membership within the League, a majority are active hikers. League members utilize the Trail on a regular basis. Moreover, members have been active in efforts to maintain the trails, organizing groups particularly on weekends for such activity.

We would ask that you convey our support to the committee and that we be kept informed of the progress on the bill. Many thanks.

Sincerely,

VIVIEN LI, *President.*

MADDOX REALTY Co.,
Black Mountain, N.C., November 11, 1977.

PARKS AND RECREATION SUBCOMMITTEE,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

(Attention Ms. Laura Beaty).

DEAR PARKS AND RECREATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS: Along the crest of the main ridge of the Appalachian mountain chain we have a unique outdoor recreation facility, this is within less than a day's drive of more than half the population of the United States, the Appalachian Trail. It was for the most part built by and has been largely maintained by volunteers. However it is now being seriously threatened and must be protected if it is to survive. We are therefore asking your help and support of bills S. 2066 and H.R. 8803 to insure survival of this trail.

For the past 23 years we have done maintenance work on the Appalachian Trail such as cutting out annual growth, clearing windfall, and painting white trail markers on objects along the trail. From my first acquaintance with this 2,000 mile footpath in 1954 I had the desire to someday walk its entire length. In 1973 at the age of 61 I decided to try it and on October 26, 1973 after about six months on the trail I completed it. My walk up the Appalachian Trail was a beautiful and enlightening experience that enabled me to become reacquainted with myself and to appreciate many things that I had heretofore taken for granted. It was one of the high points of my entire life. Along the way I met many fine young men and some women availing themselves of this wilderness footpath in order to strengthen their bodies, sooth their spirits, and clear their minds. My close association with these young people renewed my faith in the new generation of Americans.

When the Appalachian Trail was designated a National Scenic Trail by the National Trails Act of 1968 it seemed logical that Congress would protect this tremendous national asset by securing adequate rights-of-way where the trail traversed private land and where it followed public roads. This would guarantee forever the integrity of the trail as a wilderness foopath and would protect it from the threat of being severed. However almost ten years have elapsed since passage of the National Trails Act and this trail is still in jeopardy. Again we ask your support of S. 2066 which, if passed, along with H.R. 8803 would assure the future of this National Scenic Trail.

Sincerely Yours,

J. M. MADDOX.

MARYLAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL,
October 26, 1977.

Senator JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman of Parks Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resource, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Conservation Council, a coalition of conservation organizations from all parts of the state, to urge that your committee give S. 2066 sponsored by Senator Mathias a favorable report as expediently as possible.

Many of our members have enjoyed the opportunity of hiking the Maryland section of the Appalachian Trail as well as portions in the other States. In Maryland, we have experienced problems with the rights of way and feel that National legislation is necessary to provide a continuous trail, which will ultimately benefit citizens of all the United States.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

AJAX EASTMAN, *President.*

THE MONROE COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION,
Stroudsburg, Pa., November 7, 1977.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION,
Dirksen Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

(Attention Ms. Laura Beaty).

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS: The Monroe County, Pennsylvania, Planning Commission wishes to add its support to Senate Bill S. 2026 and similar legislation which protects and preserves the Appalachian Trail.

The Appalachian Trail traverses the top of Kittatinny and Blue Mountains along the County's southern boundary as it enters/leaves Pennsylvania from New Jersey. During the past two years Monroe County and other federal, state, and local agencies have cooperated to prepare a study and recommendation report on the Trail through Monroe and neighboring counties, supported state legislation for protection of the Trail, and made the public aware of development pressures along the Trail.

In our view the Trail represents both a natural-aesthetic and economic asset to the area. Located atop one of the County's highly visible natural-aesthetic features, the Trail provides a near wilderness hiking and nature education experience not available elsewhere in our County to local residents, tourists, and hikers from a broad area. Located at the edge of the Pocono Mountains Resort Area it represents an economic asset as an additional activity or opportunity available to tourists and visitors.

Judging from our past efforts to protect the Trail, it appears that the Appalachian and other major trails require federal and state legislation which provides some legal basis for protection of a trail corridor from development and provides funds for acquisition of some portions most sensitive to development and destruction.

For these reasons we are most interested in protection of the Trail and urge that your subcommittee consider favorable action or recommendation of legislation which will effectively and cost efficiently provide protection for the Appalachian Trail.

Sincerely,

CARL R. KINDRED, *Director.*

PIEDMONT APPALACHIAN TRAIL HIKERS,
Greensboro, N.C., October 27, 1977.

Senator JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman, Parks Subcommittee, Energy and Natural Resources Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: Please let me call to your attention Senate Bill S. 2066 which concerns the Appalachian Trail, the National Scenic Foot Trail extending two thousand miles along the crest of the Appalachians through fourteen states from Maine to Georgia.

Few projects better express the American heritage both from the standpoint of the opportunity it affords to experience the challenge and pleasure of nature and of the cooperative effort it took to establish the Trail.

Now with the growing urbanization of the East and the ever growing population the Trail is threatened in ways that only the Congress can defend. Should the present situation continue the Trail will be broken and squeezed so narrow that no longer will it provide the goal of walking the longest footpath in the world in a forest setting such as that which challenged our ancestors.

Bill S. 2066 authorizes sufficient funds to secure the right of way wide enough to preserve the character of the Trail and gives protection authority without land owners consent up to 125 acres a mile.

We respectfully request that you schedule hearings for this bill and lend it your support to a favorable vote. Those of us who have enjoyed the Trail and help maintain it will greatly appreciate your efforts as will those who come after us in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

THOMAS L. HARMON, Jr., *President.*

POTOMAC APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB,
Washington, D.C., November 8, 1977.

Senator JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks, Energy and Natural Resources Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: Thank you for the prompt scheduling of hearings on Senator Mathias' bill amending the National Trail System Act. On behalf of the members and hikers associated with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club I urge that your committee report this bill to the floor with a favorable vote.

I attended the hearings and am disturbed that a few owners misunderstand the need for and potential use of the 125 acre limitation for Federal condemnation. I also attended the meeting which your witness, Mrs. Clara Brown, held the next day in Boonsboro, Maryland. In spite of the reassurances from State and Federal officials, particularly Congressman Goodloe Byron, there is no need or plan for this type of Trail corridor in Maryland, or even a proposal to use Federal funds for acquisition, this group of neighbors are worried. I urge that your Committee recognize the need for the wider corridor in the few areas where adverse mountain home developments could ruin the Trail.

Today our Club Council passed the attached resolution supporting the bill. I request that our action be included in the record.

Sincerely

RAYMOND H. FADNER, *President.*

Enclosure.

RESOLUTION

Be it resolved that: The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club enthusiastically endorses S. 2066 amendments to the National Trail System Act to provide permanent protection for the Appalachian Trail. The Club, which has a membership of almost 3,000, supports (1) additional funding for land acquisition for the AT, as contained in the bill; (2) an expansion of the potential width of the Trail to 1,000 feet; and (3) reauthorization of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Advisory Council.

PATC's members have devoted many thousands of hours of their time to planning, constructing, and maintaining the AT route in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania. Passage of S. 2066 would enable the Federal government to become a full partner in the joint Federal-State-private effort to preserve the AT.

Approved by the PATC Council, November 8, 1977.

RAYMOND H. FADNER, *President.*

STERLING FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORP.,
Tuxedo, N.Y., November 3, 1977.

Ms. LAURIE BEATY,
*Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
 U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR Ms. BEATY: We understand there is currently proposed legislation related to the acquisition of the Appalachian Trail.

The land area known as Sterling Forest, which has been owned by our company since 1952, is traversed by approximately 5½ miles of the Trail. During this time we have had an excellent relationship with the N.Y./N.J. Trail Conference, who as you know, have been responsible for maintaining the Trail.

We support the proposed legislation and strongly recommend it be passed in the Senate to insure the future protection of the Appalachian Trail.

Very truly yours,

NICHOLAS J. ROSSETTI.

STONY CREEK VALLEY COALITION, INC.,
Harrisburg, Pa., November 4, 1977.

To HON. JAMES ABOUREZK, CHAIRMAN:

Stony Creek Valley Coalition, Inc. presents the following report to the Subcommittee of Parks and Recreation of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee in Washington, D.C., for the hearing of November 1, 1977, about the National Appalachian Trail Acts.

Stony Creek Valley Coalition is comprised of 53 sportsmen's, civic and environmental groups encompassing some 20,000 individuals who have banded together to protect Stony Creek Valley. This valley, located approximately 12 miles north of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, draining into the Susquehanna River, is enjoyed by deer and turkey hunters, native-trout fishermen, hikers, horseback riders, backpackers, bikers, birdwatchers, bontanists, photographers, naturalists and aquatic specialists all year round.

Approximately 15 miles of the Appalachian Trail stretches through this valley, which authorities have reported has the distinction of being one of the most beautiful, fascinating and interesting sections of the entire trail and which contains the only remaining 'wilderness' of the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania.

The Coalition was formed to protect the last unspoiled, wild area in South-eastern Pennsylvania—an uninhabited, contiguous wilderness covering about 35,000 acres, 18 miles in length. Specifically, the Coalition opposes the proposed flooding of nearly ⅓ of the valley floor and the denuding and excavating of a large portion of Stony Mountain to construct a hydroelectric pumped storage plant on wild and scenic Stony Creek—within earshot of the Appalachian Trail. New transmission lines from the two dams and reservoirs would cut a swath 50 yards wide across the Appalachian Trail, violating the experience of the trail in this area.

Therefore, we heartily support the National Appalachian Trail Act, HB 8803 and SB 2066.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our opinion for this hearing and we request that our views become part of your records.

Respectfully,

AUDREY J. MCGAHEN, *Director.*

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF CONSTRUCTION,
Nashville, Tenn., November 7, 1977.

HON. HENRY JACKSON,
*Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment,
 Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: The Tennessee Department of Conservation would like to endorse passage of S2066 providing for increased funding and acquisition authority for the federal government to use in protecting the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. This trail is a national asset of unmatched proportions easily accessible by 60 percent of the U.S. population. It is our state's most popular and used footpath and has been designated a Tennessee Scenic Trail by the Tennessee General Assembly.

S2066 is needed to insure that future generations will be able to experience this unique recreational facility.

Yours for a better tomorrow,

B. R. ALLISON, *Commissioner.*

TENNESSEE TRAILS ASSOCIATION, INC.,
Goodlettsville, Tenn., November 21, 1977.

Senator HENRY JACKSON,
*Senate Office Building,
 Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR: The Tennessee Trails Association requests that you support Senate Bill No. 2066, which provides for increased authority on the part of the Federal government, and for additional funds, in the administration of the Appalachian Trail.

The Tennessee Trails Association has 195 members statewide. We work closely with the Tennessee Department of Conservation.

Yours truly

MRS. EVELYN TRETTER, *Recording Secretary.*

TERC HIKING CLUB,
Kingsport, Tenn., October 20, 1977.

Senator ABOUREZK,
*U.S. Senate,
 Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: I am a member of the TERC Hiking Club and have hiked over 1,000 miles of the Appalachian Trail through both protected and unprotected areas. Some of the trail is on roads which is not too bad in some rural areas but does not compare with the general well being that is felt on the mountain tops and through the forests where the trail belongs.

I am in favor of expediting Senate Bill 2066 introduced by Senator Mathias, et al. which provides for more and better protection of the Appalachian Trail.

Enclosed is our current program which I think expresses our interest in the Appalachian Trail.

Sincerely,

DONALD R. NELAN, *Advisor, Steering Committee.*

WOMAN'S DAY,
November 21, 1977.

HON. JAMES ABOUREZK,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
 U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: As a long-time user of the Appalachian Trail, may I urge passage of Senate bill S. 2066 to ensure a permanent corridor for the trail. The trail is part of this country's history and should be preserved for future generations.

Sincerely,

MARCIA BLISS MARKS.

ELSIELESE THROPE, RYE COLONY,
Rye, N.Y., November 11, 1977.

DEAR SIR: As a Hiker and Conservationist may I urge you to authorize funds to protect the Appalachian Trail. In order to make this beautiful trail available, as it has been in the past 50 years, you will have to appropriate the moneys to create a wider A. T. Corridor, to keep land-developers from encroaching.

I also urge you to insure continuation of the Advisory Council and to give the AT Conference a vote on the Council.

There are so many Recreation Areas in the West. The AT is one of the relatively few we have in the East. Please do what you can to preserve it.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. NOLAN THROPE.

STEVENSON, WASH., *November 18, 1977.*

Re S2066—The Appalachian Trail.

Senator HENRY JACKSON,
*Senate Office Building,
 Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: A 2,000 mile foot trail from Georgia to Maine built and maintained by private individuals for use of all people was a great credit to our country and we were proud of it.

After considerable thought and certainly with some reluctance we were a few years ago forced to admit that without putting it into some form of guardianship with the help of the Federal Government we would no longer be able to keep the Appalachian Trail intact.

Since the government accepted partial responsibility for the Trail and failed to do its part, the Trail has suffered badly—the quality of parts of it is heading downhill rapidly and the continuity is in question. Patching it together by re-routing it on to city streets is negligent stewardship.

My husband and I gave of ourselves, both physically and financially, for many of the past fifty years to maintain the Trail while we lived in the East. We still support it financially through the Appalachian Trail Conference although we now live on the West Coast.

The necessary funding and effort on the part of the National Park Service is needed now to preserve this great asset. It will pay off in big dividends for our people now as well as in the future. It is irreplaceable, once lost, and we can't save it much longer unless the federal government holds up its end.

I hope that you will give this attention very soon and would appreciate hearing from you as to your attitude about this important national feature of our country.

Sincerely,

SYLVIA KOERBER.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., November 14, 1977.

Senator JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks, Energy and National Resources Committee,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: I am writing to urge you and your committee to pass S. 2066 during this session of Congress. Now that the various government agencies are ready to act they need the authority this bill will give them to fully protect the Appalachian Trail.

Over the past 25 years I have maintained, relocated and hiked many miles of the Appalachian Trail in the area that is the responsibility of our club, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. I have also hiked a good deal of it in New England and North Carolina and Tennessee. The AT is something that is well worth protecting for its own sake as well as for the great pleasure it gives to many, many thousands of people who hike it a little or a lot.

Sincerely,

JEANNETTE FITZWILLIAMS.

BOONSBORO, MD., November 7, 1977.

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: This is in regard to the Appalachian Trail which I am interested in protecting. My interest in fact went so far that I sold six acres of land near to the Trail to the State of Maryland.

Why on earth does the Trail need 125 acres per mile, a 1,000 foot corridor to protect it, as proposed by Congressman Byron's Bill H.R. 8803 and Senator Mathias' Bill S. 2066? The present 200 foot corridor, 25 acres per mile, should be adequate for a foot path.

Yours truly,

MARY W. NORTON.

BOONSBORO, MD., November 6, 1977.

Re Bills H.R. 8803 (Byron) and S. 2066 (Mathias).

Senator JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman of Subcommittee of Parks,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: As a property owner on the Appalachian Trail in Washington County Maryland, I would appreciate your opposition to the proposed increase in the acreage per mile to be acquired from property owners along the trail.

It is my opinion that 25 acres per mile, well maintained, should be more than ample for any recreational purpose.

The land in question has been in our family for several generations. Your support of my interest as a landowner and taxpayer is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

EARL R. ITNYRE.

BOONSBORO, MD., November 7, 1977.

HON. JAMES S. ABOUREZK,
Chairman, Parks and Recreation Subcommittee,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. ABOUREZK: We would like to go on record as objecting to the amendments in H.R. 8803 and S. 29-066, changing the acquisition of the Appalachian Trail corridor from 25 acres per mile to 125 acres per mile. We see no reason why the corridor for a "Foot path" (no matter how historical or important to all of us) should be increased from 200 feet to a 1000 foot median.

All this was unanimously made clear to Mr. Byron on the evening of our first meeting with him in Frederick.

We would appreciate any thing you can do to rectify this problem.

Yours truly,

HOWARD AND JANE YEAKLE.

BOONSBORO, MD.

Senator JAMES S. ABOUREZK,
Chairman of Parks and Recreation Subcommittee,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: I'm taking this opportunity to write to you concerning the amendments before the Congress pertaining to the National Trail System Act of 1968. In particular Congressman Byron's bill before the House of Representatives H.R. 8803 and Senator Mathias's bill S. 2066 in reference to the Appalachian Trail. I am in complete accord with both of these gentlemen as to the importance of the Appalachian Trail. The trail should be protected to ensure it's continued existence.

However as a property owner within sight of the trail I strongly feel that the increase in the acreage per mile of the trail is too vast. The amendments if passed or unchanged would allow protection for the trail up to 125 acres per mile of the trail. I fully realize that in many areas of the East Coast the trail is threatened by development. I personally feel however that a continuous 200 feet corridor from Maine to Georgia would be sufficient to ensure the preservation of the trail.

Besides the enormous amount of money to purchase a wider corridor than 200 feet, consider the cost of properly maintaining this increased acreage. If not for the concern and effort of private citizens in many areas the existence of the trail would be in doubt.

Therefore we strongly recommend that the acreage per mile of the trail be kept the same unless usual circumstances within each separate state warrant increased acreage.

Yours truly,

JOHN D. CORUN.

HANOVER, MD., November 8, 1977.

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in regards to Congressman Byron's Bill No. R8803 and Senator Mathias' Bill No. S2066 proposing to amend the National Trail Systems Act, that read that the present 25 acre per mile, 200 ft corridor is inadequate for the Appalachian Trail and they want 125 acre's per mile (1000 ft. corridor so they can better protect the trail) I thought the trail was to be reserved as a foot trail only, and the public has been using my land for that purpose for the last 30 years, so what more do they want?

I think their idea is all hogwash! They just like to squander our tax dollars. Not only that, they also want to take all of this land out of the tax structure, so I strictly say no to both of these bills.

This land on South Mountain has been in the Rowe family for 80 years and I intend to keep it that way.

Yours truly,

WILBUR S. ROWE.

NOVEMBER 7, 1977.

Senator JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman of Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Washington, D.C.
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regard to Congressman Byron's Bill No. H.R. 8803 and Senator Mathias' Bill No. S. 2066 which propose to write amendments to the National Trails System Act.

I wish to convey to you that every person that any of us contacted that pays taxes regardless if they own land or property next to the Appalachian Trail or not, vehemently oppose this amendment in either one of the aforementioned Bills to delete the 25 acre per mile and substitute 125 acre per mile.

We urge each of you connected with this App. Trail to even give your land and property for this cause but hold it right there, lest you forget your position each of you presently hold representing us, does in no way authorize you to be so liberal in even considering much less taking our land and property for a foot path.

Turn your endless energies from this destructive line of thinking to the already staggering and vital necessities that we must solve in order to preserve our free Nation. Just think what peace of mind each American citizen could then enjoy, knowing that the people representing them, are dedicated to protect the individual rights of even the poor people, middle class people, old people and those that are just trying to live quietly in the woods disturbing nothing or no one. Are you against these types of people even existing?

You now have a 200 Ft. corridor which is more than enough for a Ft. Path. You say that you are trying to preserve the Appalachian Trail. Preserve means to keep in its original state does it not? You have already distorted Mr. Benton Mac Kaye's original concept of a foot-path, named Appalachian Trail.

Get on the ball and let's see some action with some protection of some sort, of the forgotten rights of us land and property owners along the Trail as well as the hikers. There is a tremendous amount of maintenance of the vast amount of land already involved around this foot path. Take care of what you already have and you will have used enough of the taxpayers money.

We have so many poor and needy in this country, help them, quit trodding them deeper and deeper into the ground and then grinding your heel on them for good measure. Spend money on them instead of a foot-path that no one can eat or digest.

SHURMAN. B. SHANK,
A Voter, A Property Owner,
A Lenient Tax-Payer.

Subject: Amendments to National Trails System Act

Hon. Senator JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman, Parks Subcommittee,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: I oppose the increase from 25 AC/mile to 125 AC/mile as proposed in S 2066 and HR 8803. I therefore request that the 25 AC/mile be retained.

Also Landowner representation should be increased in the council by having at least one representative from each of the fourteen states who is an Appalachian Trail resident.

Thank you,

BETTY L. ROBERTSON.

ASTORIA, N.Y., November 6, 1977.

Senator JAMES ABOUREZK,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: Help preserve what natural beauty we have left. Please approve the Senate bill (S 2066) allocating the necessary funds to ensure a permanent corridor for the Appalachian Trail. Thank you.

Sincerely,

CHARLES KITTS.

YORK, PA., October 26, 1977.

Senator ABOUREZK,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: I am gratified to learn that you have before the Parks Subcommittee of the Senate Energy and National Resources Committee, a bill which would do much to insure the continuance of one of our natural resources, the Appalachian Trail.

As one who has spent many hours of rest, relaxation, rejuvenation and exertion on the A.T., I value highly this retreat from urban and suburban activities. Our trail now faces a severe threat of fragmentation from encroaching incompatible developments, both commercial and residential. If not preserved now, this corridor will be lost to us and I doubt could ever be re-established.

I urge you to schedule hearings on bill S. 2066 to amend the National Trails System Act. Preserve this important part of our national heritage for me and for future generations.

Respectfully yours,

BERNARD L. FRICK, Jr.,
President, York Hiking Club.

TAZWELL, VA., October 26, 1977.

Re: S. 2066

Hon. HENRY F. BYRD, Jr.,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BYRD: As you are no doubt aware S 2066 concerns the protection and preservation of the Appalachian Trail. While the Trail in the western part of our state, as well as in most of the Southern Appalachians is in fairly good shape, much of the trail from Northern Virginia through New York is undergoing intense competition with other forms of land use which are not compatible with the rural or wilderness experience which has been the hallmark of the Appalachian Trail experience. This bill will authorize additional monies to protect the Trail by acquisition of lands for a permanent corridor and will provide for a somewhat wider corridor than previous legislation.

I am sure you are familiar with the Appalachian Trail since a relatively large portion of it passes through our state; and I am confident that it is unnecessary to remind you that the trail is a national treasure. I have hiked much of the Trail in Southwest Virginia and points south and have helped maintain various segments of the trail in the Cherokee National Forest. I urge you to follow the progress of this bill, give it your support and do everything possible to expedite its passage during this session of Congress.

Sincerely,

HAROLD L. HARKINS, Jr.

LOCUST VALLEY, N.Y., October 28, 1977.

Senator JAMES G. ABOUREZK,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: As chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, you are in an extremely important position to insure the continuation of the very important and very beautiful Appalachian Trail. Having hiked on the trail, it's continued existence is very important to me.

I am therefore asking that you support the administration's bill, and that it be given immediate attention. The bill has been introduced in the house by Byron and Burton H.R. 8803.

Sincerely,

BARRY E. BORAKOVE.

AUGUSTA, GA., October 20, 1977.

Senator JAMES G. ABOUREZK,
U.S. Senate,
Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: A bill has been brought to my attention concerning the Appalachian Trail, number H.R. 8803. I believed immediate action should be taken to pre-

serve this trail. I strongly support this bill. If this bill is not passed, the Appalachian Trail may not exist in the future. I trust that you will support this bill.

Sincerely yours,

PEN MAYSON.

OCTOBER 21, 1977.

Senator JAMES G. ABOUREZK,
U.S. Senate,
Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: I am writing you to make you aware of the H.R. Bill 8803 which is a proposed amendment to the 1968 National Trails System Act. A bill incorporating the Department of the Interior's proposals for the Appalachian Trail was introduced in the House of Representatives on August 4, 1977. Please support this bill by giving it immediate attention.

Sincerely,

ELEANOR HARISON.

PEARL RIVER, N.Y., *October 14, 1977.*

HON. JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR JIM: Thank you for your interest in S. 2066, as expressed in your letter of October 4.

Last week I attended the hearing on the companion Appalachian Trail bill, in the House, H.R. 8803. We were all encouraged by the good questions asked by the subcommittee, and by the tremendous support given by the panels of witnesses.

As one of those volunteers responsible for the maintenance of the Appalachian Trail, and even for its existence in New York State, may I urge that you schedule a hearing this session on S. 2066.

Sincerely,

ELIZABETH D. LEVERS.

DRS. McCAIN, THOMAS AND NEW, P.A.,
Decatur, Ala., October 20, 1977.

SENATE OFFICE BUILDING,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: I urge your support of S. 2066. As you know, this worthwhile legislation will help preserve forever the Appalachian Trail.

I certainly hope you will see fit to vote for this during the 1977 session.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

F. PHILIP THOMAS.

NASHUA, N.H., *October 21, 1977.*

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: I am writing in support of H.R. 8803, concerning the appropriation of funds to purchase right-of-way and future protection for the Appalachian Trail.

Because of the day-to-day increase in land prices and the constant expansion of commercial and residential interests toward the Trail, I urge immediate attention to this matter.

The Appalachian Trail, with its unlimited recreational and personal challenge value, should be preserved for millions more to use and enjoy. The bill does not endorse radical or extreme methods of protection, but a sensible plan that keeps the Trail intact and accessible while allowing outside interests to flourish around it.

I thank you for your interest,

Sincerely,

STEPHEN OSTROWSKI.

SAVE THE TRAIL,
Camp Hill, Pa., November 6, 1977.

HON JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, Energy and Natural Resources
Committee, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: "Save the Trail" is a grass roots organization composed of thousands of Pennsylvanians who are vitally concerned with the preservation and protection of the Appalachian Trail. We formed in September of 1976 and gathered over fifty thousand signatures on a petition to prove to the members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly that citizens of every age, vocation and background *do care about the trail*. Our campaign was joined by people from forty-four states, Puerto Rico, Brazil and Canada. Numerous state and national organizations also stand in support of the protection of the Appalachian Trail, some of these being: the League of Women Voters; the Pennsylvania State Education Assn.; the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmens Clubs; the Sierra Club; the Pennsylvania Environmental Council; the Pennsylvania Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects; and the Pennsylvania Forestry Association.

We feel that the protection of the Appalachian Trail by the federal government is imperative to provide low energy consuming recreational opportunities for an ever expanding population. Anyone can enjoy the healthful benefits of trail recreation. No specialized or expensive equipment is necessary.

The Trail is an initial investment with big dividends. Once the Trail corridor is secured, unlike so many money absorbing projects, the federal government will not have to spend money to maintain it, to renovate or repair it, or to supervise it. Maintenance for the Appalachian Trail is provided by dedicated volunteers.

Preservation of this winding thread of wilderness by the federal government is essential for the enjoyment of ours and future generations. We respectfully request that this letter stating our deep interest and support for S. 2066 and H.R. 8803, the National Appalachian Trail Act, be included in the testimony of the hearing of November 1, 1977. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

MARILYN S. DAUGHERTY, Organizer.

FALLS CHURCH, VA., November 6, 1977.

Re H.R. 8803, A bill to amend the National Trails System Act of 1968.

PARKS AND RECREATION SUBCOMMITTEE,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

I am but one of many who have been attempting for years to obtain protection for the Appalachian Trail. I testified before your committee in 1965 and 1967 on bills which eventually resulted in Public Law 90-543. More recently I testified at the House oversight hearings in March, 1976 and on H.R. 8803 before the National Parks and Insular Affairs subcomm. of the House. It was nine years ago last month that P.L. 90-543 was enacted . . . and the Dept. of Interior which has primary responsibility for implementing the legislation has yet to acquire the first acre of land along the App. Trail.

The present Administration and the new Sec. of Interior have given ample evidence that they are genuinely interested in pursuing an aggressive land acquisition program on the App. Trail. The legislation currently under consideration by your subcommittee would provide the necessary authorization to the Dept. of Interior. I urge that the bill, H.R. 8803 be marked up and forwarded to the full committee for further consideration.

Sincerely yours,

EDWARD B. GARVEY.

P.S.—I am one of the fortunate few who has hiked the entire 2000 mile Appalachian Trail. I firmly believe that the \$90 million authorization ceiling in H.R. 8803 is a vital step in insuring that this Trail will remain available for others to hike in the years to come.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., October 31, 1977.

Re In Support of Senate Bill No. 2066.

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

I, Bryan Gordon, Jr., am a life long resident of Virginia, and own property in Loudoun Heights, Loudoun County, Virginia.

I am also a Supporter of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and will be ready to sell or trade my property as needed to the State for the Trail's protection. I, am indeed pleased to be of any assistance in this project.

With kind regards I remain,

Very truly yours,

BRYAN GORDON, JR.

FRONT ROYAL, VA., November 2, 1977.

U.S. SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION,
Dirksen Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

(Attention of Miss Laura Beaty).

Gentlemen:

We are writing to urge your support of Senate Bill No. 2066.

As Volunteer workers on the Appalachian Trail for the past 35 years we are concerned that the preservation of the trail is becoming more difficult each year. Governmental action seems to be the only way to stop the continued encroachment of development along the route.

The Appalachian Trail has become a major recreational facility of the Eastern portion of the United States. As such it deserves governmental support to insure its future.

We urge favorable action on Bill No. 2066.

Thank you,

JAMES W. DENTON AND MOLLY TABER DENTON.

THE FORGE,
Pine Grove, Pa., November 2, 1977.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION,
Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C.

(Attention of Laura Beaty)

Gentlemen: This letter is in reference to House Bill #2066.

I have given ten acres of Land to the Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club-part of the Appalachian Trail.

Over a mile runs through my land in Lebanon County, Pa.

Obviously, it is very important to me and I am sure all those hikers of the Trail that the Trail have precedence over any other land use.

May I urge that the Committee consider favorably the passage of Bill No. 2066.

Very truly yours,

M. RICHARD BOYER.

LAW OFFICES OF CHARLES W. SLOAN,
 ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Vienna, Va., November 2, 1977.

Re. Bill 2066.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION,
U.S. Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen: With reference to the above Bill which I understand you are now considering, I would like to advise you that I own a property with a house near the Appalachian Trail in Jefferson County, West Virginia. I wish to go on record in support of the proposed Bill. It is my understanding that the Bill would enlarge the right-of-way and provide a permanent corridor. My family and our guests enjoy hiking on the Appalachian Trail and this Bill would ensure continued preservation of that Trail.

Secondly, I feel that the value of my property will be enhanced by its proximity to the Appalachian Trail. The presence of any nearby park or preserved wilderness usually enhances property values; I see no reason why this would not occur in this particular case.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

CHARLES W. SLOAN.

BELLVALE, N.Y., November 1, 1977.

Re: S2066.

MS. LAURA BEATTY,
U.S. Senate,
Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MS. BEATTY: The Town of Warwick, which lies fifty miles north-west of the New York metropolitan area, is very fortunate in having seven miles of the Appalachian Trail within its borders. In 1973 when the Town enacted a new Zoning Ordinance, steps were taken to give some protection to this valuable scenic and recreational asset. The Appalachian Trail is listed in the Zoning Ordinance as a Designated Protection Area: (Areas within which the changing of land contours, and/or the removal of the natural vegetative cover, and/or the erection of structures is automatically subject to approval of plans and authorization by the Planning Board (According to S 30.46) upon the advice of the Town Environmental Conservation Board and the Town Architectural Review Board, for purposes of protecting ecologically sensitive areas and scenic assets of the community.)

Although the Warwick Zoning Ordinance offers the Trail some protection and recognizes its value as a scenic asset, we all realize that this alone is not adequate to preserve the Trail.

The entire section of the Appalachian Trail in Warwick is under private ownership and the possibility of development on several of the larger parcels of land is a constant threat to the integrity of the Trail corridor. I have been asked by the Trail Conference to contact some owners of land along the Trail and have found them to be very receptive to the idea of selling portions of their land in order to insure the preservation of the wilderness character of the Appalachian Trail.

I urge the Senate Sub-committee on Parks and Recreation to proceed with haste to assure the preservation of this valuable scenic and recreational resource for all the present and future citizens of the United States.

Sincerely,

MRS. CHARLES UMHEY, JR.

NEW YORK, N.Y., November 28, 1977.

HON. JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: As an active hiker, I am very much concerned about the state of the Appalachian trail.

May I herewith respectfully urge you to use your utmost influence as Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation to assure passage of S. 2066, so that funds needed for the acquisition of a permanent corridor for the trail will become available. In the absence of such action, the Appalachian trail will be further eroded by private development, and hikers will be left to trudge along highways, as they are already forced to do for considerable stretches in New York and New Jersey.

The Appalachian trail is a valuable national recreational resource and must be protected.

Sincerely,

EVA GOLDSCHMIDT.

REGO PARK, N.Y., November 18, 1977.

HON. JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: As a user of the Appalachian Trail I strongly urge you to pass S. 2066 for 89 million dollars for the acquisition by the National Park Service to ensure a permanent corridor for the Trail.

Sincerely,

NANCY J. SUNSHINE.

BADIN, N.C., November 17, 1977.

Senator JAMES G. ABOUREZK,
Chairman, Committee on Parks and Recreation,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR, I am enclosing a copy of my letter to Senator Helms, which affirms my support for the bill seeking to protect the Appalachian Trail. I hope that the bill will merit your support, and that your committee will be instrumental in its passage.

Sincerely,

R. C. HINKLE.

BADIN, N.C., October 20, 1977.

Senator JESSE HELMS,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: This is to urge you to support Senate Bill 2066, which seeks to protect and preserve the Appalachian Trail. I am a frequent hiker on the Trail in North Carolina, and have done some volunteer clean-up work on it. I am convinced that this great recreational asset must be protected by public ownership of the land across which it travels: hence my interest in this legislation. A strip of land wide enough to preserve the wilderness character of the Trail should be the goal, and it appears that this strip must be set aside immediately, before the wilderness is destroyed beyond recall.

The volunteers who have built and maintained the Trail for so many years have demonstrated the ability and strength of hiking clubs to make wise decisions about it. I favor the continuation of the Appalachian Trail Advisory Council, with a key provision that the Appalachian Trail Conference retain voting membership on the Council.

If I can be of further help to you in this matter, I'll be glad to try.

Sincerely,

R. C. HINKLE.

NEW YORK, N.Y., November 22, 1977.

HON. JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: I am writing to ask you to vote for passage of S. 2066 for 89 million dollars to purchase land to ensure a permanent corridor for the Appalachian Trail.

Increasing numbers of people in recent years have found trail walking their only bulwark against insanity in this world. Please don't let us down.

Sincerely,

MARTHA G. WELLE.

NEW YORK, N.Y., November 24, 1977.

HON. JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

SIR: As a hiker and user of the Appalachian Trail, I urge you to expedite passage of S. 2066.

It is a wonderful thing to get away from the city and walk along the Appalachian trail on a Saturday or Sunday. Yet more and more of the trail is

detoured along highways and out of the woods. With the passage of S. 2066, this unique trail will be preserved and protected for myself and millions of my fellow hikers.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

JULIUS LANDAU.

BEL AIR, MD., *October 24, 1977.*

HON. CHARLES McC. MATHIAS,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: As a non-credit instructor in Backpacking at Harford Community College, I feel threatened by the situation dealing with the Appalachian Trail. Several times a year, I lead hikes on this and its many side trails. Often these trips are in Western Maryland.

But the A.T. is in trouble. I strongly urge your support on Bill S. 2066. Maryland has 38 miles of the world's longest foot trail—the Appalachian Trail.

The trail offers a location of practical outdoor education for my Backpacking class. Also, when you consider the trail is under one day's drive for over half of America's population, the loss would hit a great number.

Thank you for your time in this matter and please support 2066!

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT S. BRISTOW.

KENSINGTON, MD., *October 17, 1977.*

HON. CHARLES McC. MATHIAS,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: I am writing to enlist your support of S. 2066.

My first experience with the Appalachian Trail was in 1938. Two wars, a marriage, a son and 20 years later I was fortunate to renew that experience here in the Maryland area. During the past 19 years it has been my privilege to introduce a large number of boys to the wonders and pleasures of the trail as a leader in the Boy Scouts of America. During these years I have seen the trail urbanized and vandalized in many sections of Maryland and Pennsylvania despite the best efforts of the highly educated volunteers.

The scouts of Troop 784, Wheaton, Md. have worked to preserve the trail by collecting and hauling out trash, reroofing two trail shelters at Birch Run, Pa. and assisting in the establishment and maintenance of a secondary trail at Quarry Gap, Pa.

Please support S. 2066.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE J. SUFFAE.

TAKOMA PARK, MD., *October 22, 1977.*

HON. CHARLES MCC. MATHIAS,
*U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR MATHIAS: Senate Bill S. 2066 which would set up ways and means to protect the Appalachian Trail, is very much on my mind. As the mother of a family of four boys who love and use the trail, I hope that you will actively support the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

YVONNE G. BOLZ.

THE RAGGED ROBIN,
Henderson, Md., October 21, 1977.

HON. CHARLES MATHIAS,
*U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR MATHIAS: Please see that S. 2066, authorizing money to protect the Appalachian Trail, passes in this session of Congress time is running out to protect this valuable recreational resource, and as a 1500-mile user of this trail, I want to see it maintained and its status permanently protected.

Yours truly,

CARLETON GORDON.

POTOMAC, MD. 20854.

DEAR SENATOR MATHIAS: I have heard of the bill S. 2066, and I wish to urge you to support it's approval. Although I am only 14 years old, I have been hiking the Appalachian Trail for three years, and have helped on several clean up projects with my Boy Scout Troop, 944, of which we take frequent hikes. I think the trail is very important to Scouting as an excellent place to hike and for other numerous merit badges which may be earned there. Again, I stress the importance of this bill, S. 2066, being passed into law.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL JACOBSON.

MOUNTAIN CLUB OF MARYLAND,
Baltimore, Md., August 27, 1977.

HON. CHARLES McC. MATHIAS,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MATHIAS: I encourage you to sponsor the Appalachian Trail legislation being proposed by the National Park Service and the Appalachian Trail Conference—to enlarge the trail's corridor acquisition limits and to establish the Appalachian Trail Advisory Council.

We have just had a conference in Harrisburg between State Environmental Resources officials and the National Park Service and representatives of four trail-maintaining hiking clubs, including one just newly formed, to work on problems of establishing a permanent Appalachian Trail route across the Cumberland Valley. We find we are in complete agreement and are now applying ourselves as effectively as possible to these problems.

My club also is working on problems connected with getting rights-of-way off roads and through the woodlands, both in sections where we have always had the trail on suffrance but now find it insecure, and in sections where it can be improved. We need federal support for this kind of activity, and the National Park Service is now ready to give it to us. As in the past, we volunteers will do the work and furnish the manpower, continuing to operate the trail, because we believe we understand what the hikers want and because we believe in this particular natural resource for health and challenge to young persons, providing them with adventure and outlets against which to test their mettle. The boost we need is assistance from the National Park Service now that it is eager to help us preserve the Trail.

This club maintains 45 miles of the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania and 9 miles in Maryland (2 miles of which was recently relocated by 18 volunteers working in two days. We have just set up a new trailside shelter at one site and have moved two other shelters log-by-log one-half mile deeper into the woods at another site. We also maintain 30 miles of a side trail that leads to Hancock, Md.

It is the zest shown by hikers of all ages that makes this work worth while. I hope you can convey this sentiment to your colleagues.

Sincerely yours,

THURSTON GRIGGS,
Supervisor of Trails.

RALEIGH, N.C., November 12, 1977.

PARKS AND RECREATION SUBCOMMITTEE,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION SUBCOMMITTEE: I have been involved with the Appalachian Trail for many years. My intimacy dates back to 1968, when as a young Boy Scout, I explored awesome Laurel Fork Gorge, ambled through Dennis Cove, climbed steep White Rocks Mountain and meandered through Tennessee highland pastures. I have been hiking trail sections, doing volunteer work and spreading the word ever since.

My personal relationship with the Appalachian Trail probably climaxed in August, 1975, when admiring a hazy sunset I stood atop Springer Mountain in Georgia. On that day I completed the entire 2,050-mile Trail. The benefits that I derived from the end-to-end trek are too numerous to describe. Most striking was my change in attitude. Having viewed a tremendous cross section of America, I was and remain impressed with the extraordinary strength of this country.

Everywhere I saw smiling faces and shook helpful hands. Everyone, from Tennessee roughnecks to New Jersey farmers seemed interested, concerned—even envious. The Trail molded my outlook into a positive, confident one.

Sadly in 1975, the same year that I finished the Trail, three parcels of private land adjoining the Trail were auctioned off and second homes threatened the Roan Highlands in Tennessee and North Carolina.

Presently 650 miles of Appalachian Trail are privately owned. One hundred and seventy more miles are on public roads.

The Appalachian Trail an incalculably valuable national resource—one too precious to sacrifice to summer homes. Three-quarters of the U.S. population is within driving distance of the Trail. Yet most federal recreation lands are in the West.

Volunteer effort since the 1920's has accomplished much, but the opportunity to preserve the Appalachian Trail is now. Soon it will be too late. Congress enacted the National Scenic Trails Act in 1968. Little has been done. Fortunately Congress is moving. H.R. 8803 passed the U.S. House of Representatives 409-12. By continuing the Appalachian Trail Advisory Council, increasing the authorization ceiling for land acquisition and increasing the amount of land which may be obtained by condemnation, H.R. 8803 offers the best protection for the Appalachian Greenway. I urge the members of the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee to support it. Thank you.

WILLIAM E. HOLMON.

RAPID CITY, S.D., October 28, 1977.

*U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SIR: I writing to urge you to support Congressman's Goodloe Byron bill, H.R. 8803, which would amend the National Trails System Act of 1968 to allocate \$35 million to purchase land over which the famous Appalachian trails rests. I have not yet been lucky enough to hike this unique trail and therefore do not wish to see cut to ribbons. I again urge you to support this bill and see that it gets immediate attention when it's forwarded to your Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation.

Sincerely,

TIM CHURCH.

NOVEMBER 8, 1977.

PARKS AND RECREATION SUBCOMMITTEE,
*U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.*
(Attention: Ms. Laura Beaty).

DEAR MS. BEATY: I am writing in support of bill number H.R. 8803 regarding the Appalachian Trail. Almost exactly a year ago today (November 13, 1976) I took the final stride of a six month journey to stand atop Springer Mountain, Georgia. This journey was the culmination of a childhood dream to walk the entire length of the Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia. I grew up in Pennsylvania about 15 miles from the trail. I was very young when I took my first sunday afternoon hike with my family to Bake Oven Knob. We took more hikes, to Hawk Mountain, to Baer Rocks, we watched the hawks migrate, and the leaves change color. This exposure instilled feelings of respect and curiosity of nature which have helped me to formulate my values today. Just a short drive from my home, from many homes all along the Appalachian Mountains, is a path which you can follow into a fascinating natural world.

Still very young, I inquired as to just where this path went. From Maine! To Georgia! What a phenomenon—and so the dream. Its adventure is now in the past, the adventure of a life enriching journey. Trouble is it could soon be only a dream, and never culminate by our younger folk (or older), I might have to tell people about the trail that was. Already in my journey I had to travel on 170 or so miles of road, private land retracted, stealing away even the thin strip of America that the trail is. The trail must be protected now. We need support of this bill to appropriate the monies necessary for protection of the trail, to create a wider corridor, relocate road sections and to insure continuation of the Advisory Council for a 10 year period.

We cannot let Benton McKay's dream die now, nor the dreams of others who aspirote a two thousand mile journey, and even more important we cannot deprive the sunday hikers who have come to watch the color change, there are invaluable lessons to be learned in nature.

Enjoy a walk,

CAROL FRITZINGER.

NEW CUMBERLAND, PA., November 9, 1977.

Re H.R. 8803 Amending the Trails Act.

PARKS AND RECREATION SUBCOMMITTEE,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

(Attention: Ms. Laura Beaty).

SIRS: This is to ask your support for H.R. 8803, an amendment to the National Scenic Trails Act, providing additional funding for land acquisition, wider Trail corridor, and the continuance for 10 years of the Advisory Council.

I have had a life-long interest in the Appalachian Trail, having hiked and camped on it all through the State of Pennsylvania and Maryland, and most of the Trail in New Hampshire and some in Maine around Katahdin, where the Trail begins (or ends.) My daughter began hiking with me on the Trail when she was about six years of age, and by age nine had completed all 200 miles in Pennsylvania by hiking on occasional weekends. This gave her a keen interest in the outdoors, and by learning of the danger to the Appalachian Trail being blocked off by housing developments in various areas, she became even more interested in conservation and is now in college starting a career in forestry.

For about twenty years I have been active in maintaining a nine mile section of the Trail here in Pennsylvania. I hope I will be able to continue doing so in future years, because for some unknown reason I can't explain, there is great satisfaction in being one of the volunteers who keep the Trail open and marked for the benefit of the public. So I think the Advisory Council is very important in allowing the volunteer workers and hikers a voice in how the Trail should be managed.

In fifty years the Trail has become an important natural resource for recreation, used and in some spots over-used, by many thousands of people. The spread of housing developments has placed the wilderness quality of the Trail in jeopardy at many locations, even threatening to block it completely here in Pennsylvania. So it is now necessary to have government protection in a right-of-way for the Trail, and I ask that the Committee give favorable consideration to H.R. 8803.

Respectfully yours,

HENRY J. FINERFROCK.

MACOMB, ILL., November 10, 1977.

PARKS AND RECREATION SUBCOMMITTEE,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MS. BEATY: I am writing to support passage of bills H.R. 8803 and S. 2066. Personally, I have hiked 1,600 miles of the 2,000-mile Appalachian Trail. Many times I encountered difficulties with privately owned sections of the trail. This becomes a great inconvenience to all hikers. This problem can be eliminated by making the Appalachian Trail a National Park Trailway. I hope the National Park Service is supported in purchasing the necessary land for a permanent corridor for the trail. I hiked the trail in the summer of 1976 at age 19 and found those sections already owned by National Parks well maintained. The Appalachian Trail can be appreciated by so many people in the future that I can't emphasize enough the importance of its survival.

Sincerely yours,

R. SCOTT FOSTER.

COVENTRY, CONN., *November 8, 1977.*

PARKS AND RECREATION SUBCOMMITTEE,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MS. BEATY: I am writing in regard to House Bill H.R. 8803, introduced in the House on Oct. 25, 1977 and passed 409-12, which increases the authorization ceiling for land acquisition along the Appalachian Trail to \$90 million, creates a wider trail corridor, and ensures the continuation of the Advisory Council. As a 2-time "2,000 miler" (hiked the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine in 1975 and 1977), I am urging you to support this bill. The trail is the longest marked recreational footpath in the world and within a half's day drive of 150 million people—60 percent of the U.S. population.

In the past 3 years that my friends and I have been hiking on the trail, I have noticed many areas of urban development which threaten the continued existence of the trail. At the present, with 175 miles of trail on road and 650 miles on private land, it is imperative to act now to ensure a high quality trail. With thousands and thousands of people using this trail every year, it is important that we preserve it while there is still time. I strongly urge you to support this bill.

"Remote for detachment,
Narrow for chosen company,
Winding for leisure,
Lonely for contemplation,
The trail leads not merely north and south,
but upward to the body,
mind and soul of man."

—Harold Allen.

Sincerely,

DONALD M. PELLETIER,
STEVE MARKIEWICZ,
JEFFREY PETTERSON,

PITTSBURGH, PA., *December 5, 1977.*

Senator JAMES G. ABOUREZK,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: I am writing to inform you that I am in full and total support of H.R. 8803 concerning the Appalachian Trail. In your position as chairman of the Senate Subcommittee of Parks and Recreation, I urge you to give this bill your immediate attention and press for its passage during this session of Congress. I thank you for your needed support.

Sincerely,

JOHN C. WARRICK,

NEW YORK, N.Y., *November 30, 1977.*

HON. JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: As a city-dweller who hikes on the Appalachian Trail, I hope you will help to ensure its inviolability through purchase of adjacent land! I hope you will vote in favor of S. 2066 allocating funds for this purpose.

Sincerely,

SYLVIA M. KNOX.

BRONX, N.Y., *December 5, 1977.*

Re Senate Bill S. 2066.

Senator JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman of the Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: I am an avid hiker and backpacker and am very much interested in seeing Senate bill S. 2066 passed. In each of the past two years I have spent two weeks of my vacation backpacking on the Appalachian Trail. Two years ago going from Hot Springs, N.C. to Elizabethton, Tenn. and this year going from Elizabethton to Marion, Virginia. This has been a very satisfying experience for

me and I would very much like to see this trail preserved. I am aware that over 40 percent of this trail is on private land. This bill, by providing a 1,000 foot corridor would provide much needed protection for this trail, which I feel is a National Monument which we dare not lose.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM MISHLER.

BACKACRES TREE FARM,
New Park, Pa., November 21, 1977.

Hon. JAMES ABOUREZK,
*Chairman, Subcommittee of Parks and Recreation, Energy and Natural Resources
Committee, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SIR: Through membership in the York Audubon Society we have learned of the proposed Appalachian Trail National bill S. 2066 H.R. 8803 and wish to urge you to give it your support.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

R. W. & J. C. SMITH.

BROOKLYN, N.Y., December 6, 1977.

Hon. JAMES ABOUREZK,
*Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: I recently read in the New York Times that there are proposed laws before the Congress to acquire land along the route of the Appalachian Trail in order to protect it from developers who want to build houses, trailer parks, dumps, etc in the way of the trail. I am writing to you because I learned from the Appalachian Mountain Club that you are responsible for the committee in the Senate which is going to pass judgement on S. 2066 for \$89 million for this purpose. I hope you will do all you can to pass this law. My friends and I use the Appalachian Trail, and we feel that is one of the greatest natural resources there is in the New York City area. I would like to think that future generations would be able to enjoy it as I do. Thank you.

Your truly,

HARVEY STONEBURNER.

I oppose the Acquisition of 125 acres per mile proposed by Goodloe Byron bill H.R. 8803 and Senator Charles Mathias Jr. bill S. 2066.

Please keep the Appalachian trail as is.

Mrs. PAT STANLEY,
Landowner.

JACKSON HEIGHTS, N.Y.,
November 22, 1977.

Hon. JAMES ABOUREZK.

DEAR SIR: As a user of the Appalachian Trail, I urge your assistance in the passage of S. 2066 as this will assure a continuing nature and health experience for the young and future generations at a modest cost.

Sincerely,

FRANK BAMBERGER.

NORFOLK, VA., November 11, 1977.

PARKS AND RECREATION SUBCOMMITTEE,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATORS AND COMMITTEE PEOPLE: I am writing on behalf of the Appalachian Trail, a footpath that runs thru the wilderness (or tries to) for 2,053 miles from Springer Mtn. Georgia to Mt. Katahdin, Maine. I know it intimately because I spent 7 months last year walking it all the way from Springer to Katahdin. Most end-to-enders take 4-5 months but I was smaller as well as inexperienced—I had taken only 2 weekend overnight backrack trips to learn how. I started in March when it was still winter in the Georgia mountains, waited thru weeks of cold for spring to creep out of the bareness and turn to summer, then saw those long awaited green leaves turn red and gold and form a carpet almost 300 miles long thru Maine until on my last day of the journey the trees were almost as bare as winter again.

Since I returned home a year ago, I have been on several trips to the woods, some alone and some with the Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club which maintains a section of the Trail. I am a member of both this club and the national A.T. Conference. I figure if I'm going to enjoy using the Trail, I have to take care of it.

About 40 percent of the AT is on private land, usually owned by farmers or logging companies, with the rest being on public property such as national and state parks and forests. Sometimes the landowners kick the Trail off their land so that the maintaining clubs have to relocate it into another wooded area—or onto a road which may be the only alternative route in a populated area.

This is especially bad in northern Virginia where there are 30 straight miles of roadwalking with almost no campsites, because landowners forced it off their property where it used to run thru the woods. The average hiker carrying an average 40 to 50 pound pack for a long hike can do no more than 25 miles in a day, which is considered an extremely rough day—and some of us can't come close to that. In Southwestern Virginia there is an unnecessarily difficult relocation that adds 10 to 15 miles to the Trail because a farmer who is known to be unfriendly to hikers kicked the trail off his property.

Other areas, such as Wolf Rocks, Penn. and Big Bald Mtn. on the N.C.-Tenn. line are threatened by real estate developments, which destroy the wilderness setting of the Trail—and therefore its reason for being. In some places civilization is unavoidable (or necessary—us hikers have to buy our food somewhere), however if we wanted a civilized trail, we could have sent it down I 95.

There is a bill, H.R. 8803 (S. 2066), which will provide some protection for the Trail by helping to buy up land that it runs thru, and I am asking you to approve it, let it out of committee, and vote for it. It authorizes extra money to buy up parcels of land—\$90 million rather than the \$5 million authorized by the National Scenic Trails Act of 1968, thus allowing an increase in the trail corridor from 200 feet to 1,000 feet. Of course this must be done before the land is built on.

This footpath means a lot to many people—those that use it on weekends and day hikes, as well as those that start at one end and keep walking 'til they get to the other. There are benefits to be found in the woods that cannot be found in urban life, and these are as necessary as any financial benefits from land development. Backpacking the Trail often takes out of you everything you have to give and still keeps demanding more, then suddenly even in all the sweat and dirt, and rain and mud, and cold and heat and sometimes sunshine, you realize its given you back even more than it took away.

SUSAN-GAIL AREY,

"The 90-Pound Hiker With the 40-Pound Pack."

HON. JAMES G. ABOUREZK,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: It has come to my attention that House bill 8803, concerning the National Trails System Act, is again up for grabs. As an outdoor lover and backpacker I sincerely hope you will do your best to move this bill into Congress before the end of this legislative session. Please give this bill your attention and support. Thank you.

Sincerely,

JOHN LEWIS.

DEAR SIR: I write with concern in reference to bill number 8803 concerning the Appalachian Trail. I am very much in support of this bill.

The increasing urbanization of our countryside forces wilderness lovers to confine their travels to narrow protected corridors, trails. This satisfactorily meets the needs of the industrial developer and the avid wilderness user. The wilderness enthusiast gets a narrow undisturbed tract of land to travel through while the developers have all the land on either side for the entire length. From the developers point of view this is much better than losing large tracks of land to national parks and wildlife preserves as has been exemplified by the current situation in Alaska.

The case in question is a very popular well established long distance wilderness trail. This is the only trail of any length along the eastern seaboard. The conception for its establishment in the early nineteen hundreds shows that a need was felt then for preservation of a corridor in the rapidly developing seaboard. Now the trail has been established for many years and yet is threatened by our continued expansion. To lose this symbol of natural environment as well

as the opportunity to visit it at great length is yet another example of our continued withdrawal from the natural processes from which we evolved.

We owe it to our children if not to ourselves. "Yes son, our fathers carved a great nation for wilderness like this. This is preserved to let us remember what it was like before."

Thank you for the time.

Respectfully,

STEVE MUNSELL.

RYE, N.Y., November 13, 1977.

Hon. JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

HONORABLE SIR: This is to express my whole hearted support for the bill you are bringing out of your Committee, i.e., S2066.

As a man who has hiked extensive portions of the AT, I know its importance as a recreational feature and as a symbol of a unified spirit among sportsmen.

Please continue your support.

Very truly yours,

NOLAN THROPE.

OCTOBER 19, 1977.

Hon. JAMES G. ABOUREZK,
Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: I have been greatly concerned about the Appalachian Trail within recent years. The trail needs to be preserved as a national park for future generations. The government would purchase the land 200 to 1,000 feet on each side of the trail. The bill is 8803 which was introduced on August 4 by Goodloe Byron to the House of Representatives. I have faith that you will stand behind this bill.

Sincerely yours,

BILL FRANKS III.

FT. LAUDERDALE, FLA.,
November 11, 1977.

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: I support the Carter Administration's bill which has proposed allocating an additional \$35 million to buy and protect at least 300 miles of the Appalachian Trail by 1979.

I ask you, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Parks and Recreation, to give this matter your immediate attention.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA E. TURNER.

MANHASSET, N.Y., November 8, 1977.

SIR: I wholeheartedly support the Carter administration's bill H.R. 8803, the Appalachian Trail bill, and hope that it will be given immediate attention. Thank you.

Sincerely,

ANTHONY L. MANDIACCHIA.

MCCLELLAN AFB, CALIF., November 8, 1977.

DEAR MR. ABOUREZK: I am writing in support of the bill H.R. 8803 which is for improvements on the Appalachian Trail such as buying private property and widening of the hiking corridor.

This is something which should be given immediate attention because the longer this is put off the harder it will be to get this land because of developments done to private property.

I hope it gets the needed attention in this session of Congress.

I do not request any information.

Thank you.

KEITH BUNKMAN.

MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIF., *November 11, 1977.*

Senator JAMES ABOUREZK,
*Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. ABOUREZK: I have visited Mineral King on several occasions and I appreciate its very delicate beauty.

It is important to each of us, as Americans, that this area be preserved in its natural state for our generations to come.

Please do everything you can to bring the Mineral King area within our National Park System.

Please begin by scheduling hearings into S. 88 as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS LOCK.

BOONSBORO, MD., *November 7, 1977.*

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: I am writing in regard to Congressman Goodloe Byron's bill H.R. 8803 and Senator Mathias' bill S. 2066 concerning the National Trails System Act. I am opposed to an amendment that would allow the Government to buy 125 acres per mile instead of the 25 acres per mile that is now set aside.

I feel that for everyone concerned, 25 acres per mile is quite sufficient to protect the trail.

Sincerely,

JUNE E. HATZELL.

BOONSBORO, MD., *November 3, 1977.*

DEAR SIR: We oppose the acquisition of 125 acres per mile as proposed in Sen. Mathias' bill S. 2066 and Congressman Byron's bill H.R. 8803. Please don't change the trail. Please keep the Appalachian Trail 200 feet as is.

Thank you.

Mr. and Mrs. C. L. NAILLE.

MIDDLETOWN, MD., *November 2, 1977.*

DEAR SIR: I strongly oppose the acquisition of 125 acre per mile as proposed in Sen. Mathias' bill S. 2066 and Congressman Byron's bill H.R. 8803. Won't you please keep the Appalachian Trail 200 feet as is? Thank you.

Sincerely,

WILLIE RAUTZAHN.

BOONSBORO, MD., *November 3, 1977.*

DEAR SIR: I oppose the acquisition of 125 acres per mile as proposed in Sen. Mathias' bill S. 2066 and Congressman Byron's bill H.R. 8803. Please keep the Appalachian Trail 200 feet as is.

Thank you.

Mr. HARVEY J. HOUSE.

MIDDLETOWN, MD., *November 2, 1977.*

DEAR SIR: I oppose the acquisition of 125 acres per mile as proposed in Sen. Mathias' bill S. 2066 and Congressman Byron's bill H.R. 8803. Please don't change the trail; please keep the trail 200 feet as is.

Thank you so very much.

Mrs. R. G. RAUTZAHN.

MIDDLETOWN, MD., *November 3, 1977.*

DEAR SIR: We oppose the acquisition of 125 acres per mile as proposed in Sen. Mathias' bill S. 2066 and Congressman Byron's bill H.R. 8803. Please don't change the Appalachian Trail. Please keep the trail 200 feet as is.

Thank you.

Mr. and Mrs. GARY L. GODLOVE.

MIDDLETOWN, MD., November 2, 1977.

DEAR SIR: I strongly oppose the aquisition of 125 acres per mile as proposed in Congress, Sen. Mathias bill S. 2066, Mr. Byron bill H.R. 8803. Please don't change the trail, please keep the trail as is 200 feet.

Thank you.

Yours truly

Mrs. J. M. ROUTZAHN.

MYERSVILLE, MD.

DEAR SENATOR: I am opposed to 125 mile per acre. That the 25 mile per acre is more than enough already for a foot path.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. EARL LEWIS.

MIDDLETOWN, MD.

I'm writing to oppose bills H.R. 803 and S. 2066 pertaining to the South Mountain area.

Mrs. T. WHITE.

BOONSBORO, MD., November 4, 1977.

Senator JAMES ABOUREZK,
*Chairman of Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR: I am writing in regard to Congressman Byron's bill H.R. 8803 and Senator Mathias bill S. 2066 proposing to amend the National Trail Systems act. (Appalachian Trail.)

I am referring to the amendment that would delete 25 acre per mile (200 ft. corridor) for a foot path. I repeat a foot path for hikers across private land. You would propose to then substitute a 1,000 foot corridor for a foot-path. Stop right there and read and re-read this will you?

There is no logic whatsoever for anyone to think twice of such an idea much less propound the 125 acre per mile (broken down to read 1,000 foot corridor), that you say is needed to walk a foot-path. This is no way to cram this idea down the American people's throats and still have them in favor of retaining the Appalachian Trail. I fear the trend the American people will take next is to abolish the Appalachian Trail and be rid once and for all of this harrassment from the State and Federal government.

We now propose what you Representatives of the people might do to become constructive and not destructive persons. With the authority and means vested in you by the people's vote, take your responsibilities seriously and turn all your energies to solving and to not create even a hint of a new problem that is not irrelevant to the staggering problems that we now have and need your help to resolve. This problem you are trying to create goes against the constitutional rights of every American citizen.

The money you want appropriated for the Appalachian Trail, we say good, take it and use it for the maintenance and protection of your 200-foot corridor. You will have 5 times greater success and funds for 200 foot rather than 1,000 foot to protect and maintain.

The Appalachian Trail is already illegal in the sense that it was to be preserved as a foot-path, is this not so?

Take your 200 foot corridor and be eternally grateful you somehow managed to amend the interpretation of a foot-path to this great width.

We love the outdoors (needless to say), the Appalachian Trail, as a foot-path. We would not, for a minute want to entertain the thought that the American people want to abolish the Appalachian Trail as the only means left to rid them of the harassment for more land and more land and more land from the State and Federal Government.

A very concerned property owner and a very lenient taxpayer.

Sincerely yours,

BONITA SHANK.

PITTSFIELD, MASS., October 24, 1977.

U.S. Senate Bill—S. 2066: To approve and ensure a permanent corridor for the Appalachian Trail.

A frequent user of the trail in western Massachusetts.

Mrs. ALLEN E. DORR.

SILVER SPRING, MD., *October 24, 1977.*

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: As a native South Dakotan who is currently living in Maryland, I appreciate all opportunities to get away from the city to places of quiet and beauty like I enjoyed in S. Dak. For this reason, I frequently hike parts of the Appalachian Trail. I urge your support of S. 2066 to get the Appalachian Trail off the 175 miles of roads it is currently on and back into the woods where it belongs.

Sincerely,

LINDA CROUSE.

UPPER ST CLAIR, PA., *October 30, 1977.*

HON. JAMES G. ABOUREZK,
*Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SIR: As a member of the Appalachian Trail Conference and a frequent user of the Trail, I am deeply concerned that S. 2066 and H.R. 8803 are passed. These bills, authorizing action for the protection of the Trail are of prime importance today.

Over 40 percent of the Trail is unprotected and vulnerable to the ever increasing threat of the eastern megalopolis (175 miles of the Trail are presently on roads). Over 150 million Americans are within a half day's drive of the Trail, and millions enjoy this unique wilderness Trail on day hikes or extended treks.

These bills will not remove any land from farming or sensible timber production, as these are a part of the Trail experience.

I, along with millions of other Americans, urge that these bills, S. 2066 and H.R. 8803, are given top priority and are given immediate attention. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM R. McCLAIN.

BLOWING ROCK, N.C., *October 25, 1977.*

HON. JAMES G. ABOUREZK,
*Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: I have just sent the following message to Representative James Broyhill of North Carolina and to Representative Goodloe E. Byron.

"I urge you to support H.R. 8803, which is a bill to protect the Appalachian Trail. I am a frequent user of the Trail and derive spiritual as physical recreation from use of the trail.

"H.R. 8803 would authorize funds to protect the trail, it would create a wider corridor for the trail, it would insure continuation of the advisory council, and it would give the Appalachian Trail Conference a vote on the Council."

Anything you could do to expedite consideration and passage of this bill would be appreciated by thousands and thousands of users of the A. T.

Sincerely,

M. R. ZINOBER.

AUGUSTA, GA.

JAMES G. ABOUREZK,
*Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SIR: I am a junior in high school and am an active participant in outdoor activities. Many people in my class are outdoor lovers and are concerned with the future of several public parks and trails, and we feel you should take notice of these issues too. One of the main problems right now concerns the protection of the Appalachian Trail. Much of this famous trail passes through a private property, and there is a great possibility that in a few years this land will have been bought and commercialized, thus impeding the trail. H.R. bill 8803 is a proposed amendment to the 1968 National Trails System Act, and is asking for \$35 million to buy and protect 300 miles of the Appalachian Trail by 1979. This wouldn't take any land used for farming or timber production.

I am asking you please to support this issue, as it concerns the fate of a very well-travelled trail. I would appreciate your support! Thank you.

Sincerely,

GIA SCARPETTA.

NEW YORK, N.Y.

Hon. JAMES ABOUREZK: I am writing to you in support of S. 2066 which allocates \$89 million to purchase land for the Appalachian Trail to provide a corridor of land that is suitably wide enough.

As a hiker and city dweller it is so important to walk on trails escaping civilization and not be forced onto roads with cars and houses.

Please do all you can to help passage of the bill.

Respectfully yours,

Mr. AARON SCHNEIDER.

ARMUCHEE, GA.

DEAR MR. ABOUREZK: I understand that you are chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation. As you well know there is a bill before your committee to purchase land to insure the existence of the Appalachian Trail. This summer I had the opportunity to hike for two months on the Trail. I walked from Springer Mt. here in Georgia to Damascus, Va. This Trail is a great part of our heritage and it would be a real shame to lose it.

WILLIAM THORNTON.

P.S. Please give this bill immediate attention.

LOMA LINDA, CALIF., October 21, 1977.

Mr. JAMES G. ABOUREZK,
Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. ABOUREZK: Just a short letter to let you know that we support H.R. 8803 (concerning the Appalachian Trail) and to request that it be given immediate attention. Thank you.

Sincerely,

PAUL HOUMANN,
DEBORAH HOUMANN.

OCTOBER 19, 1977.

Chairman JAMES ABOUREZK,
Senate Subcommittee, Washington, D.C.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ABOUREZK: I would like to add my vote with those of others who are in favor of H.R. 8803, the Appalachian Trail Bill.

Too much of our natural United States has been destroyed, and we need to preserve some of the areas now while there is still time to do it. Delaying any longer will only cost more money and leave less land.

The Appalachian Trail is an area that I feel definitely should be preserved and protected. I hope that you will vote for this bill so that it may be passed during this session of Congress.

Sincerely,

MARY EDITH SMITH.

OCTOBER 19, 1977.

JAMES G. ABOUREZK,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: I attend school at Augusta Prep and have just completed reading the article about the Appalachian Trail Bill—H.R. 8803. I have a great interest in the outdoors and would like to see this bill passed. Please back this bill up and support it to your best ability.

Sincerely,

MIKE SHAPIRO.

MYERSVILLE, MD.

DEAR SENATOR: I'm opposed to 125-mile per acre. That the 25-mile per acre is more than enough already for a foot path.

Mrs. DON WARREN FELTZ.

PATERSON, N.J., November 6, 1977.

PARKS AND RECREATION,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

GENTLEMEN: May I urge your support of H.R. 8803, a bill pertaining to the Appalachian Trail.

Let us preserve this natural resource for future generations.

Sincerely,

PETER BOTH.

SONORA, CALIF.

Ms. LAURA BEATY,
Parks and Recreation Subcommittee,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR Ms. BEATY: My husband and I are "2,000 miles" on the Appalachian Trail. We are asking you to support H.R. 8803.

We hiked the Appalachian Trail in 1974, hiking from Georgia to Maine, taking us six months.

The six months we spent hiking on the trail was one of the most exciting and educational experiences of our lives.

I've been sitting trying to think of a way to put six months into just a few words, and I can't, it's just too personal an experience. We love the Appalachian Trail, the land, the people we've met, the total experience.

We would like everyone to have the same chance to have their own experiences.

In a world with so much struggling, so much searching, the Appalachian Trail isn't any con, there might be a little struggling, but it gives so much in the way of finding peace of mind, innerstrength, love of nature, of all good things.

All we can ask is for your support on bill number H.R. 8803.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

THOMAS F. BLAIR.
LINDA BLAIR.

NOVEMBER 25, 1977.

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: Thank you very much for rep'ying to my letter in which I requested you to keep the Appalachian Trail to 200 etc. and I appreciate the fact that you will keep my views in mind, especially concerning the fact that I don't want to see any of my friends who live near the trail, lose their homes.

Overall it would be wonderful if you could have the bill written so that no homes along the entire trail would be taken away from their owners. Losing land is one thing, but to lose one's home is terrible!

If it is at all possible, I think there should be notification of these two bills sent to everyone who lives alongside the Appalachian Trail. (Notices should be stapled to the trees along the Trail regarding the bills, etc.) And certainly there should be an ad put in important papers about these bills and further notices sent to those post offices near the trail and also notices put in every box in those post offices as well as placed in RFD boxes, etc.

This seems to be the fair way to the people and everyone would might lose their properties. They would then be able to express their ideas about it and then perhaps you could arrange to let them vote on it. They are the ones that lose and not all those people that walk on the trail.

In other words, I think if anything is to be done about the Trail, as expressed in bills S. 2066 and H.R. 8803, only a small portion of land, on other side of the Trail, should be taken away, if it has to be taken away to protect the trail from, for example, a motel to be constructed going very close to it.

If you can include this letter also in the official hearing record so that it too will be available to the other members of the Committee, I will certainly appreciate it.

And again thank you for your letter of November 16th when I know how very, very busy you are.

Sincerely yours,

RICHARD GRIFFIN.

BUFFALO, N.Y., *November 12, 1977.*

PARKS AND RECREATION SUBCOMMITTEE,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: Under other circumstances, I would type a proper letter urging that the Senate pass H.R. 8803. However, I'm currently in the hospital recovering from a burst appendix.

My feeling for the Appalachian Trail is one of emotion. In 1976, I hiked the AT from Georgia to Maine. When my hike was finished I had realized a boyhood dream. I felt trepidation at leaving the security of my job, but the experience of hiking a 2,000 mile footpath in the "wilderness" was well worth the security I relinquished. I want the future generations of my family to have the AT extant.

I can't explain in a few words the tangib'le value of my hike, but I have more pride in that accomplishment than anything else I have done. I like my country more because of the experience and I respect the land as the ultimate, nonanimate resource (people being the first resource). I feel that one thing Americans need is the opportunity to be separated from cars and roads and TV's once in awhile. To struggle up a mountain slope and then to cool off with a draught of spring water while surveying the majesty of unbroken forest from the mountain top is to earn an incomparable experience.

Please pass H.R. 8803 and then hike the Trail you save. It runs 50 miles distant from Washington. Unfortunately, the trail section between Front Royal, Va. and Harpers Ferry, W. Va. was one of the worst parts of the Trail in 1976. The Trail in this area was mostly on roads. I imagine it is just as bad or worse now. I recommend that you hike north from Harpers Ferry.

Sincerely,

BARTON "BIPEDAL" BROWN.

CRESTLINE, OHIO, *November 28, 1977.*

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: Since we are avid hikers we have been much concerned over the lack of good, maintain trails and the encroachment of private interests on established trails such as the Appalachian Trail, therefore we were pleased to learn that the Carter administration and Department of Interior are proposing to buy and protect at least 300 miles of the Appalachian Trail and widen the trail corridor to an average of 1,000 feet. Please give this legislation immediate attention. Time is critical.

MR. AND MRS. LON LEAPLEY.

AARON LEBOW, C.L.U., C.P.C.U.,
New Rochelle, N.Y., November 20, 1977.

HON. JAMES ABOUREZK,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SIR: As a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club I'm very concerned that this bill for the purchase of additional lands be passed. John F. Kennedy said it—there is only one such opportunity—and it's too late. The lands are needed. The A.T. is too narrow for recreational and ecological purposes in very many places.

AARON LEBOW.

LARCHMONT, N.Y.

Strongly recommend passage of S. 2066 with 89 million dollars for purpose. Often hike Appalachian Trail and protection corridor would be very desirable.

MACKY BENNETT.

ARLINGTON, VA., *November 18, 1977.*

HON. JAMES ABOUREZK,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: I own land in Warren County, Virginia, including 1 mile of the Appalachian Trail. I am very pleased to have the Appalachian Trail on my land, and I support the Senate bill which would protect and enhance the trail.

I sold three parcels of land to buyers who wanted to own a piece of the trail. It is my understanding that there are over 200 trail landowners in the Pennsylvania-to-Virginia corridor, and only six or seven of these closed the trail.

The hikers who cross my land want to preserve the area, and I agree entirely with their objective.

I strongly urge you and the subcommittee members to support this bill.

Sincerely,

THOMAS L. FLOYD.

NEW YORK, N.Y., *November 18, 1977.*

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: As a frequent user of the Appalachian Trail I am disappointed in the long stretches of the trail that are forced to go on highways.

Your committee is now considering S. 2066 which will provide funds for purchase a right-of-way for the trail to make it more useful and enjoyable for the many hikers. I hope that your committee will give this bill your favorable support.

Thank you,

ALAN A. MELNIKER.

SPRING VALLEY, N.Y., *November 17, 1977.*

HON. JAMES ABOUREZK,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SIR: I am writing to urge you to use the good offices of your committee for passage of S. 2066 and for \$89 million for this purpose.

We are sadly lacking in trails in U.S. and passage of this legislation will be a start in the right direction. I am one of the volunteers that continues to be responsible for trail maintenance.

Very truly yours,

BETSY PUGH.

OCTOBER 19, 1977.

HON. JAMES G. ABOUREZK,
*U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. JAMES G. ABOUREZK: I have just read an article about the bill, H.R. 8803 that proposes to protect and buy the land of the Appalachian Trail. I support this bill and would like to see it passed.

The Appalachian Trail is one of the few things in America that people can enjoy. With your help this bill can help save and preserve the Appalachian Trail

Supporter of Bill 8803.

MYLES DENNY.

NATHAN HALE HALL,
Willimatic, Conn., November 8, 1977.

MS. LAURA BEATY: On behalf of fifty-one young adults who found out something about themselves on the Appalachian Trail—America's Walkabout (transition to adulthood).

I will be more than happy to address the Senate subcommittee. I consider myself the leading authority on how the trail can be used for self-discovery. I have walked the trail 3 times and have based my PhD dissertation on it.

WARREN E. DOYLE, JR.

GLEN OAKS, N.Y.

HONORABLE JAMES ABOUREZK: I'm writing to you to ask you to please vote affirmative on the following bills: H.R. 8803 and S. 2066.

I myself use the Appalachian Trail very much, and as a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club know that thousands upon thousands of people use the trail. Please, I urge you, to do all in your power to help keep this trail a beautiful natural wilderness.

I want to thank you very much for your help.

Yours truly,

THOMAS KOCH.

NEW YORK, N.Y., November 22, 1977.

HON. JAMES ABOUREZK,
Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: I would like to urge speedy consideration of bill S. 2066 to provide a permanent site for the wonderful Appalachian Trail. I have hiked parts of the Trail often, and welcome this possibility for improvement.
Yours truly,

RALPH F. LOVE,

JAMAICA, N.Y., November 21, 1977.

HON. JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. ABOUREZK: As a frequent hiker on the Appalachian Trail, I am writing to encourage the speedy passage of bill S. 2066. The Appalachian Trail is a marvelous thing and I support every effort to ensure that it will be a permanent corridor. Already, as I'm sure you are aware, there are areas where it is along roads and its existence is continually being threatened. Again, I urge you to pass this bill as quickly as possible to ensure the survival of the AT which is so important to many of us.

Sincerely,

DIANA F. VEASEY.

FLUSHING, N.Y., November 20, 1977.

HON. JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR HON. ABOUREZK: Unless we safeguard the Appalachian Trail by passage of S. 2066, walkers in the United States will become subject to our car-dominated society. Let's protect what little walking highways we have left.

Yours,

PATRICIA MCGIVERN.

BEECHHURST, N.Y., November 22, 1977.

HON. JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

HON. JAMES ABOUREZK: My wife and I are users of the Appalachian Trail and ask that you support passage of S. 2066 for the acquisition of land by the National Park Service for the Trail.

Very truly yours,

SAUL FRANK.

NEW YORK, N.Y., November 22, 1977.

HON. JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

HON. CHAIRMAN ABOUREZK: Please help our world keep something of its natural setting—keep us from losing the forests to the cities, entirely.

The passage of S. 2066 for \$89 million to facilitate our having the Appalachian Trail—will help keep the natural world, and therefore the people in it—more in balance. Please help the Senate give attention and priority to this issue!

Respectfully,

DINA and ALBERT MOZELL.

TUPPER LAKE, N.Y., November 24, 1977.

HON. JAMES G. ABOUREZK,
Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR ABOUREZK: I am writing to give my support to bill, S. 2066, which concerns the preservation and maintenance of the Appalachian Trail.

The AT is at a natural juncture. Since 1921 volunteer effort has been sufficient to maintain the trail reasonably well (and should and will continue). However, developmental pressures are such now that guaranteed corridors are now absolutely necessary to preserve the quality of the trail. Volunteer effort (e.g., through the Appalachian Trail Conference—of which I am a member) is not enough. I hope that you and your committee will support this bill.

Sincerely yours,

RICHARD STEVEN MARRUS, M.D.

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y., November 29, 1977.

HON. CHAIRMAN J. ABOUREZK,
Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: I would like to urge you to do all you can to pass S. 2066 bill through your subcommittee and through the Senate. Acquisition of a permanent corridor for the Appalachian Trail is a project that will help preserve and protect this marvelous institution.

As a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club, I have walked many miles on the trail. Hikers donate thousands of hours each year to maintain trails which would cost millions of dollars if it were not volunteer labor. They are willing to do this to preserve this wonder for themselves and their children.

There is a therapeutic value to hiking which enriches and relaxes those who participate. The amount of money involved (approx. \$89 million) is small compared to the value received. Please use your significant influence to help improve this national treasure.

Sincerely,

M. J. GLEASON.

PASSIAC, N.J., November 28, 1977.

HON. JAMES ABOUREZK,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: As a user of the Appalachian Trail, I would like to urge you to help pass bill S. 2066. This would guarantee that land would be available for present and future generations for recreation. To quote the words of a song: "You don't know what you've got till it's gone."

Yours truly,

JOYCE THORNER.

[MAILGRAM]

FREDERICK, MD., November 4, 1977.

This mailgram is a confirmation copy of the following message:

Senator JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman, of Parks and Recreation

As a property owner along the Appalachian Trail I want you, if you please, to know that I am opposed to the acquisition of the 125 acres per mile as proposed in Senator Mathias's bill S. 2066 and Congressman Byron's bill H.R. 8803. Please keep Appalachian Trail 200 feet as is. Letter follows, thank you.

RICHARD B. GRIFFIN.

FREDERICK, MD., November 7, 1977.

Senator JAMES ABOUREZK,
Chairman of Parks and Recreation,
Dirksen Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: As a property owner along the Appalachian Trail, I want you if you please, to know that I am opposed to the acquisition of 125 acres seizure of land per mile as proposed in Senator Charles McC. Mathias bill H.R. 8803. Please keep the Appalachian Trail 200 feet, as is. I am primarily concerned about all the residents losing their homes near and around my property on South Mountain (Route 40A), here in Maryland. My property is known as

Dahlgren Chapel and there are eleven acres involved of mine. The trail was originally a footpath and I think it should remain that way. Certainly where my property is located and that of my friends, their homes, I do not see any need for the right of eminent domain to be applied, and these people lose their homes. I will never hurt this Trail by putting up a gasoline station or hurt the public, and hence feel that the Appalachian Trail matter remain the original way, and Senator Mathias' bill not be applied to my location nor to my many friends. Thank you very much for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

RICHARD B. GRIFFIN.

P.S./I am sending Senator Mathias a copy of this letter. Hope you received my telegram also. He is a good friend of mine.



