

COPY June 5, 1964

To: The President  
From: U. S. Senator Robert C. Byrd  
Re: The proposed Allegheny Parkway Project

A serious problem has developed in one of the major phases of the Appalachian recovery program. It is the proposed Allegheny Parkway project which the President's Appalachian Region Commission has recognized as a source of employment and an important tourist attraction. Although the Appalachian Region Commission has given its approval to the Parkway, the Bureau of the Budget declines to endorse it. This, in turn, has delayed the release of feasibility studies made by the Interior and Commerce Departments, which are known to be favorable to the project.

Officials of the Bureau of the Budget say they cannot endorse the Parkway until a schedule of priorities is determined for the Allegheny and 12 other parkway projects already authorized but not funded.

The Bureau of the Budget says these priorities must come from the Interior Department's Bureau of Outdoor Recreation which, in turn, has referred them to the Recreation Advisory Council. Larry Stephens, newly appointed Staff Director of the Council, was not aware of this responsibility, but estimated that one full year's study is needed before a program of recreation projects is recommended.

Finally, the National Park Service said preliminary work on the Parkway could only include low-cost engineering studies to map its route, thus informing the states on the property rights that must be acquired. They said construction could not be started before 1966.

Your assistance to expedite the preliminary work would be greatly appreciated.