

Y4 .C 73/2: 94-48

1041

9444
C 73/2
94-48

ESTABLISH A NATIONAL WILDLIFE RECREATION AREA
IN THE MINNESOTA VALLEY

GOVERNMENT

Storage

IMENTS

5 1976

THE LIBRARY
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-FOURTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

S. 2097 and Amendment No. 1023

TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MINNESOTA
VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE RECREATION AREA

NOVEMBER 10, 1975

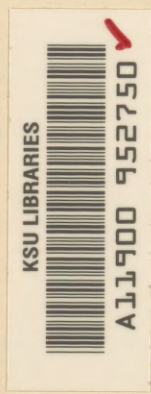
Serial No. 94-48

Printed for the use of the Committee on Commerce



U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1975

64-706



87-AP:5/25.4Y

DOCUMENTS

MAR 2 1978

THE LIBRARY
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

WARREN G. MAGNUSON, Washington, *Chairman*

JOHN O. PASTORE, Rhode Island
VANCE HARTKE, Indiana
PHILIP A. HART, Michigan
HOWARD W. CANNON, Nevada
RUSSELL B. LONG, Louisiana
FRANK E. MOSS, Utah
ERNEST F. HOLLINGS, South Carolina
DANIEL K. INOUE, Hawaii
JOHN V. TUNNEY, California
ADLAI E. STEVENSON, Illinois
WENDELL H. FORD, Kentucky
JOHN A. DURKIN, New Hampshire

JAMES B. PEARSON, Kansas
ROBERT P. GRIFFIN, Michigan
HOWARD H. BAKER, Jr., Tennessee
TED STEVENS, Alaska
J. GLENN BEALL, Jr., Maryland
LOWELL P. WEICKER, Jr., Connecticut
JAMES L. BUCKLEY, New York

MICHAEL PERTSCHUK, *Chief Counsel*

S. LYNN SUTCLIFFE, *General Counsel*

MICHAEL B. BROWNLEE, *Professional Staff Member*

KATHI KORPON, *Professional Staff Member*

ARTHUR PANKOFF, Jr., *Minority Counsel*

GEOFFREY BAKER, *Minority Professional Staff Member*

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

PHILIP A. HART, Michigan, *Chairman*

FRANK E. MOSS, Utah, *Vice Chairman*

JOHN O. PASTORE, Rhode Island
RUSSELL B. LONG, Louisiana
JOHN V. TUNNEY, California
ADLAI E. STEVENSON, Illinois
JOHN A. DURKIN, New Hampshire

LOWELL P. WEICKER, Jr., Connecticut
HOWARD H. BAKER, Jr., Tennessee
JAMES L. BUCKLEY, New York
JAMES B. PEARSON, Kansas

CONTENTS

	Page
Opening statement by Senator Ford.....	1
Opening statement by Senator Mondale.....	11
Text of bills:	
S. 2097.....	3
Amendment No. 1023.....	9

LIST OF WITNESSES

Anderson, Hon. Wendell, Governor of Minnesota.....	13
Benedict, Robert M., mayor, Bloomington, Minn.....	24
Bratt, Walter, Hennepin County Park Reserve District Commissioner.....	30
Brigham, Edward M. III.....	42
Prepared statement.....	42
Carlson, Don, metropolitan region administrator, Department of Natural Resources.....	14
Carpenter, Forrest, National Wildlife Refuge Association.....	34
Christensen, Otto, Minnesota Recreation and Park Association.....	45
Dahlton, Howard, planning director, Burnsville, Minn.....	26
Dana, Robert.....	62
Griffith, Chuck, National Wildlife Federation.....	31
Prepared statement.....	32
Groem, Don, executive vice president, Bloomington Chamber of Commerce.....	47
Haik, Roy, Lower Minnesota Valley Watershed District.....	48
Hemphill, Jack, regional director region 3, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.....	18
Jenkinson, Peter, counsel, Continental Grain, Savage, Minn.....	46
Jessen, Marty, director, Eden Prairie Park and Recreation.....	27
Kelley James.....	52
Kirchner, William G., State senator, Richfield, Minn.....	20
Klavestad, Marie, Stage Coach Museum Highway 101.....	59
Klavestad, Osborne.....	63
Kline, John, project director, Urban Council on Mobility.....	43
Koniarsky, Bill, chairman of the Scott County Board of Commissioners.....	22
Krumm, Theresa, junior high student, Bloomington, Minn.....	56
Letter of November 6, 1975.....	56
Lykken, Harriet, North Star Chapter, Sierra Club.....	39
Marzettelli Frank, commissioner, State highway department.....	16
Mauritz, Jack, Hennepin County Park Reserve District.....	29
McLean, Carol, League of Women Voters.....	49
Prepared statement.....	50
Mellott, Elaine, Minnesota River Valley Citizens Committee.....	58
O'Neil, Kelly.....	62
Pahl, Theodore.....	51
Pederson, Beverly.....	50
Peterson Cecil.....	60
Rahr, Fritz, Izaak Walton League, Bloomington, Minn.....	40
Prepared statement.....	41
Robins, Ann.....	53
Letter.....	54
Ross, Jim, Minnesota Conservation Federation.....	38
Schmitz, Jim, State senator, Minnesota State Legislature.....	21
Seal, Marialice F., Minnesota River Valley Citizens Committee.....	57
Letter of November 10, 1975.....	57
Sullivan, Nancy, chairman, Burnsville Environmental Council.....	36
Swanson, Jim, Fort Snelling, Minn.....	25
Tuettar, Pat.....	60

IV

ADDITIONAL ARTICLES, LETTERS, AND STATEMENTS

	Page
Blacklock, Les, wildlife photographer, letter of November 10, 1975-----	72
Kelley, James E., letter of November 5, 1975-----	68
McInnis, Patrick, J., manager, city of Burnsville, letter of November 7, 1975-----	70
Mellott, Elaine M., cochairman, the Lower Minnesota River Valley Citizens Committee, letter of November 6, 1975-----	70
Northrup, Glen, planning director, city of Burnsville, letter of November 21, 1975-----	74
Osterhold, David W., mayor, Eden Prairie, Minn., letter of October 28, 1975--	67
Pahl, Theodore, letter of November 6, 1975-----	70
Thomforde, Lawrence, biology instructor, John F. Kennedy Senior High School, letter of November 4, 1975-----	52
Toren, Paul, president, Izaak Walton League of America, Minnesota Division, resolution-----	73

ESTABLISH A NATIONAL WILDLIFE RECREATION AREA IN THE MINNESOTA VALLEY

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1975

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
Bloomington, Minn.

The subcommittee met at 9:30 a.m. in the Oxboro Community Library, 8801 Portland Avenue, South, Bloomington, Minn., Hon. Wendell Ford presiding.

OPENING STATEMENT BY SENATOR FORD

Senator FORD. May I have your attention, please.

First, let me welcome each and every one of you here this morning. I'm particularly pleased to see so many that are interested in this project and very pleased to be here to represent the Commerce Committee of the U.S. Senate.

I am Wendell Ford, U.S. Senator from Kentucky, and if that isn't enough to hurt me, my last name will. I have a statement to make and then we will proceed in an orderly fashion with the witnesses. If you have a lengthy statement, it would be our hope that you would abbreviate it and file your total statement for the record. There will be many here that would like to have an opportunity to say a few words. I also understand that there are some who would like to speak, but who are not on the witness list. So we will have a catchup or catchall at the end of our scheduled witness list and those who are not on the list will have a few moments to make a statement.

This morning the Senate Committee on Commerce will be hearing testimony on S. 2097, legislation to establish the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area.

This legislation, introduced by my colleagues from the State of Minnesota, Senators Mondale and Humphrey, would establish the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area consisting of some 17,500 acres in the Minnesota river flood plain between the city of Jordan and Fort Snelling State Park.

In addition, the bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish within the recreation area a 9,500-acre Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge to be administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Residents of the Twin Cities metropolitan area need not be reminded of the unique environmental resource available to them in the Minnesota River Valley. This is one of the few river valleys in the Nation

Staff member assigned to this hearing: Kathi Korpon.

that lies in such proximity to a metropolitan area yet remains in a relatively natural state. The area provides habitat for an abundance of wildlife, including over 275 species of migratory birds and a variety of mammals, among them the whitetail deer, beaver, mink, fox, and raccoon.

In addition, the valley provides a full range of outdoor recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife appreciation not usually found available to urban residents. If this area, like too many other areas of the Nation, were to succumb to pressures for commercial development, the esthetic, educational, environmental loss to the area, if not the Nation, would indeed be significant.

The bill which the committee is considering today would help to prevent such loss. S. 2097 is a culmination of several years of hard work and cooperation between the valley residents, State and local governments, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in an effort to develop a plan for the preservation of the river valley, a plan which would conserve valuable fish and wildlife resources without impairing economic achievements attained by local communities.

In addition to preserving a unique environmental resource, S. 2097 is significant in several other respects. First, it provides for the direct involvement of the State and local communities in the development of the refuge-recreation area. Since it is these individuals who are so intimately acquainted with the area and who possess the knowledge and expertise necessary to manage it, it is essential that they have significant input into this proposal.

Second, the bill establishes the Nation's first refuge-recreation area. While current law does provide for the use of refuges for public recreation and environmental education, wildlife refuges are still all too often viewed as inviolate sanctuaries to be administered solely for the preservation of wildlife. This bill, however, would actually utilize the educational and recreational potential of the Minnesota Valley refuge and establish it as being as much for people as it is for wildlife.

By providing for the construction of a nature interpretative center on the refuge, S. 2097 would promote interaction between refuge visitors and refuge wildlife resources, an example that would hopefully be followed by others.

Finally, S. 2097 provides an excellent example of an urban wildlife refuge, a concept that has been advocated by conservationists and those familiar with the needs of urban residents but which have not received much attention so far from the Congress or the Department of Interior. The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge can provide a type of laboratory where methods for better acquainting urban residents with the nation's wildlife resources can be explored.

[The bill and amendment follows:]

94TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2097

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 11 (legislative day, JULY 10), 1975

Mr. MONDALE (for himself and Mr. HUMPHREY) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of the Minnesota Valley
National Wildlife Recreation Area.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That for the preservation and enhancement of highly signifi-
4 cant wildlife habitat in the Lower Minnesota River Valley
5 in the State of Minnesota, for the protection of migratory
6 waterfowl and other wildlife and to provide an opportunity
7 for wildlife-oriented recreation and nature study within the
8 open space so preserved, the Secretary of the Interior (here-
9 inafter referred to as the "Secretary") is authorized and
10 directed to designate as herein provided, a national wildlife
11 recreation area to be known as the Minnesota Valley Na-

1 tional Wildlife Recreation Area (hereinafter referred to as
2 the "recreation area") which boundaries are described as
3 follows:

4 (1) that portion of the Lower Minnesota River flood
5 plain which lies between the city of Jordan, Minnesota
6 and Fort Snelling State Park excluding that industrial-
7 ized portion in the municipalities of Savage, Chaska,
8 Shakopee, and Burnsville, Minnesota; and

9 (2) areas adjacent to the flood plain that are neces-
10 sary for public access and/or safety and well-being of
11 the visiting public and/or operation and maintenance of
12 the wildlife recreation area:

13 SEC. 2. (a) To implement the purpose of this Act, the
14 Secretary shall immediately acquire and establish within the
15 boundaries of the "recreation area" a national wildlife refuge
16 known as the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
17 (hereinafter referred to as the "refuge") to be managed by
18 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. There shall be
19 included within the boundaries of the refuge those lands,
20 marshes, submerged lands, and open waters in the lower
21 Minnesota River Valley area generally depicted on the map
22 entitled "Boundary Map Proposed Minnesota Valley Na-
23 tional Wildlife Refuge," date 1975, and which com-
24 prise approximately nine thousand, five hundred and forty
25 acres within nine units to be known as the Long Meadow

1 Lake Unit (2,100 acres), Black Dog Lake Unit (1,300
2 acres), Coleman Lake Unit (410 acres), Bloomington Ferry
3 Unit (160 acres), Townline Unit (140 acres), Savage Unit
4 (330 acres), Grass-Rice Lake Unit (2,500 acres), Chaska
5 Lake Unit (400 acres) and Louisville Swamp Unit (2,200
6 acres), except that the Secretary may from time to time
7 make adjustments in the boundaries of the refuge as he de-
8 termines are necessary. Said boundary map shall be on file
9 and available for public inspections in the offices of the Fish
10 and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the
11 Interior.

12 (b) The Secretary may acquire lands and waters or
13 interests therein within the boundaries of the refuge by dona-
14 tion, purchase with donated, transfer or appropriated funds,
15 or exchange.

16 (c) The Secretary shall administer the lands, waters,
17 and interests therein acquired for the refuge in accordance
18 with the provisions of the National Wildlife Refuge System
19 Administration Act of 1966, as amended (80 Stat. 927; 16
20 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee)); except that the Secretary may
21 utilize such additional statutory authority as may be avail-
22 able to him for the conservation and management of wild-
23 life and natural resources, the development of wildlife
24 recreation opportunities, wildlife interpretation and environ-

1 mental education as he deems appropriate to carry out the
2 purposes of this Act.

3 (d) The Secretary shall construct, administer and main-
4 tain at an appropriate site within the Minnesota Valley Na-
5 tional Wildlife Refuge, a wildlife interpretive center for the
6 purpose of promoting environmental education, and to af-
7 ford visitors an opportunity for the study of wildlife in its
8 natural habitat.

9 (e) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated
10 under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act such
11 sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of
12 this Act.

13 SEC. 3. (a) To further implement the purposes of this
14 Act, the Secretary, in cooperation with the State of Minne-
15 sota and political subdivisions thereof, shall formulate with-
16 in two years after this Act takes effect a comprehensive
17 plan for the protection, preservation, and interpretation of
18 the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area, but
19 he shall not spend more than \$500,000 of Federal funds
20 thereon. The Secretary will delineate and provide manage-
21 ment guidelines for areas constituting the following cate-
22 gories:

23 Category I.—The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife
24 Refuge to be acquired and managed by the United States
25 Fish and Wildlife Service under the provisions of this Act.

1 Category II.—Public nature-recreation areas to be ac-
2 quired in fee, or through lease, easement, or other types of
3 agreement and managed by the State and/or regional,
4 county, or municipal governments under the provisions of
5 this Act.

6 Category III.—Privately owned lands that will
7 (through easement compensation and protection) remain
8 undeveloped in a natural environment condition with public
9 use subject to the owners' desires.

10 SEC. 4. The Secretary may grant financial assistance to
11 the State of Minnesota and political subdivisions thereof for
12 its acquisition of lands and interests in category II and III
13 lands lying within the area designated as the wildlife recrea-
14 tion area. Any grant made under this section shall be only
15 for lands or interests in land acquired by the State and polit-
16 ical subdivisions thereof after designation of the wildlife
17 recreation area, as provided by this Act, and the total of all
18 grants under this section shall not exceed 60 per centum
19 of the cost to preserve four thousand acres and shall be sub-
20 ject to terms and conditions prescribed by the Secretary.

21 SEC. 5. Any payment made by the Secretary under
22 the provisions of section 4 of this Act shall be made
23 subject to the understanding and agreement by the State of
24 Minnesota and any political subdivision thereof that the
25 conversion, use, or disposal, for purpose contrary to the

1 purposes of this Act, as determined by the Secretary, of any
2 land acquired by said State or political subdivisions thereof
3 with funds supplied in part by the United States pursuant
4 to said section, shall result in a right of the United States
5 to compensation therefor from said State or political subdivi-
6 sions in the amount of 60 per centum of the fair market value
7 of the land, exclusive of any improvements thereon, as deter-
8 mined at the time of such conversion, use, or disposal.

9 SEC. 6. There are to be appropriated sufficient funds to
10 carry out the provisions of this Act, not including funds to
11 be expended under the Land and Water Conservation Fund
12 Act for the purchase of the Minnesota Valley National Wild-
13 life Refuge.

S. 2097

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 28, 1975

Referred to the Committee on Commerce and ordered to be printed

AMENDMENTS

Intended to be proposed by Mr. MONDALE to S. 2097, a bill to provide for the establishment of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area, viz:

1 On the first page, line 3, insert "(a)" immediately after
2 "That".

3 On page 2, between lines 12 and 13, insert the following:

4 "(b) The Congress recognizes the unique character of
5 the Minnesota River Valley as a wildlife and recreational
6 resource, as an avenue for navigation consistent with prior
7 congressional authorization and as a corridor linking heavily
8 populated communities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.
9 Establishment of the refuge and recreation area shall not be
10 construed so as to prohibit or prevent the provision of vital

Amdt. No. 1023

1 public services, including (1) continuation of navigation,
2 (2) construction, improvement, replacement, or maintenance
3 of roads and bridges, or (3) any other such activities by
4 public agencies as may be determined by the Secretary to be
5 necessary; except that such activities referred to in the pre-
6 ceding clauses shall be carried out with minimum disruption
7 of wildlife, recreational, and scenic values of the area con-
8 sistent with economic feasibility.

9 “(c) The Secretary shall provide for the Minnesota
10 Valley Trail Corridor, authorized by Minnesota Statute, 1969,
11 section 85.198, as an integral part of the Minnesota Valley
12 National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area.”.

13 On page 4, strike lines 9, 10, 11, and 12 and insert
14 the following:

15 “(e) The United States Fish and Wildlife Service and
16 the United States Corps of Engineers shall assist appropriate
17 local authorities in the designation of sites for deposit of spoil
18 material so as to minimize the disruption of wildlife, scenic,
19 and recreational values consistent with the need to insure
20 the continuation of navigation on the riverway. The Fish
21 and Wildlife Service shall be authorized to expend not more
22 than per centum of the funds appropriated for acqui-
23 sition of the refuge to purchase alternative sites for deposit of
24 spoil material as may be necessary outside the boundaries of
25 the refuge and recreation area.”.

1 On page 4 preceding section 3, insert the following
2 new subsection:

3 “(f) Revenue sharing payments made to counties in
4 which units of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife
5 Refuge are located in accordance with section 715(s) of
6 title 16, United States Code, shall be distributed to affected
7 municipalities and townships on the same pro rata basis as
8 is used in the distribution of real estate taxes.”.

9 On page 6, beginning with line 9, strike out all through
10 line 13 and insert the following:

11 “SEC. 6. There are authorized to be appropriated from
12 moneys in the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of
13 1965 and which are available for Federal purposes there-
14 under such amounts as may be necessary to carry out the
15 provisions of this Act.”.

Senator FORD. Witnesses at today's hearing will include the Honorable Wendell Anderson, Governor of your great State of Minnesota; Mr. Jack Hemphill, regional director, region 3, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Minneapolis; Mr. William G. Kirchner, State Senator, Richfield; and Mr. Robert M. Benedict, Mayor of Bloomington. In addition, we will be hearing from other local officials, residents, and representatives of environmental and commercial organizations.

We have a rather lengthy witness list but we will try to make sure that everybody that wishes to speak on the bill has at least a few minutes to do so.

Before I turn to Governor Anderson, who will be our first witness, I believe our good friend and sponsor of S. 2097 would like to make a statement on behalf of his legislation.

OPENING STATEMENT BY SENATOR MONDALE

Senator MONDALE. Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Governor ANDERSON. Commissioner Marzetelli, Senator Kirchner, Senator Schmitz, Mayor Benedict, and other public officials: First of

all, I wish to welcome you to Minnesota. I'm a graduate of the Fort Knox School, having spent 2 years there, and we have been trying to get a Kentuckian up here to return the visit ever since then, and we are grateful to have you here.

Senator FORD. There's one thing you have to understand about Kentucky, though. We have beautiful women, fast horses, and cigarettes and they are all habit forming, and we don't leave home.

Senator MONDALE. And also Kentucky fried chicken.

We are very, very grateful to have you with us here today. I noticed as we drove up Senator Ford came to life because he saw a car with a Kentucky license plate. Is that person here?

Senator FORD. I've already spoken to her. She's from Whitney County. She represents your newspaper. They will say the other Ford was in Minnesota today.

Senator MONDALE. And I must say I am very pleased to see all of you out today to begin this official hearing before the Senate Commerce Committee on the creation of a Minnesota Valley National Wildlife and Recreational Area.

In my opinion, this is one of the most exciting, hopeful, and thrilling objectives from a conservation and environmental standpoint that I have seen in a long time. This valley is a priceless resource, the likes of which are not to be seen possibly anywhere else in the country. We can put together easily some 17,000 acres jointly owned, part of it by the Federal Government, but part of it by local communities and counties, one of the most remarkable wildlife settings in an urban environment possible in this country, if not the world.

As you know, it's an area of spectacular beauty. It abounds in wildlife of all kinds and it's within just a few minutes of 2 million people, and this proposal has been created with the gifted help of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Jack Hemphill and the rest, so that it will have true meaning to all of us who live nearby. It will seek to accommodate the economic interests of navigation, of transportation and the rest. It seeks to permit thousands of acres to be used in the way that the local communities wish to use them, for recreation, nature trails, hunting, and in all the rest, but it tries to do so in a way that also permits literally thousands and thousands of persons in the upper Midwest to also participate. We are going to have an interpretative center there where citizens can come and be told about the area and the wildlife and see it, where students from throughout this area can come and learn and understand and hopefully many of them will choose wildlife conservation as a life's work. We will have as a part of the Governor's program the nature trail incorporated in this program and we have tried in every possible way, and we hope to hear more about it today, to accommodate and work with the people who live in communities that are located on the banks of the Minnesota Valley.

I am personally very excited about the proposal and very pleased to see the growing public support. The congressional delegation from Minnesota, I think, unanimously supports the objective of this legislation. We may need some minor changes, but basically the Minnesota delegation of both political parties stand together in support of this legislation.

I am very pleased by the leadership of our Governor, Governor Anderson, in support of this legislation and the very useful help of

our State Department of Natural Resources. I am very pleased to be here and look forward to hearing from all of you.

Senator FORD. Thank you very much, Senator.

The first witness this morning will be the Honorable Wendell Anderson, Governor of Minnesota.

STATEMENT OF HON. WENDELL ANDERSON, GOVERNOR OF MINNESOTA

Governor ANDERSON. Senator Ford and Senator Mondale, I am very happy to welcome both of you to my State. I would like the members of the audience to know that we are very fortunate that Senator Ford is here because he's a former distinguished Governor of Kentucky so he's accustomed to hard work and full-time responsibilities. I'm sure that the bill will not suffer from lack of attention.

After I conclude with my brief remarks in support of this legislation I'd like permission to call on Don Carlson, who is to my right, who is the metropolitan region administrator of the Department of Natural Resources and also Frank Marzetelli, who is our Commissioner of Highways. With that understanding, I would be happy to proceed.

Thank you for inviting me to testify on behalf of the establishment of the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area, the bill that you're considering to preserve and protect this area.

The Minnesota River Valley is under intense development pressure from the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Minnesota Valley region of relatively unspoiled natural beauty is endangered by threats of encroachment as the metro area expands its industry and citizens look for prime development sites as well as recreational areas.

Already the communities of Burnsville, Shakopee, Shasta, and Savage partially occupy the Minnesota flood plain. Citizens and governmental groups have actively expressed their concern about these threats to the valley. Local government units have aided the State's attempt to acquire land in the area. A number of citizens organizations should be commended for their work: The Lower Minnesota Valley Citizens Committee, the Burnsville Environmental Council, the Bloomington Natural Resources Commission, the Minnesota River Audubon Club, the Izaak Walton League, the National Wildlife Association, to name just a few.

In spite of the accomplishments of all these groups, they alone cannot protect or manage the Minnesota River Valley. The focus must be on a broader scale to provide coordinated effort and sensible management. Supported by Federal Government action, the resources of the Minnesota River Valley can be preserved and enjoyed with the local, State and national significance. The Minnesota River flood plain has traditionally been used for hunting, fishing, trapping, and nature observation. Preservation of this area will insure that these traditional recreational activities will remain a part of the area.

In addition, future flood damage will be prevented through the restriction of development on the flood plain itself. Visitors to this area will have the opportunity to observe wildlife in its natural habitat and to enjoy hiking, bird watching, and trapping. Children will have the opportunity to learn about the environment firsthand.

Minnesota is a State noted for its efforts to preserve and protect its environment. I believe I'm correct in saying that Minnesota has one of the most comprehensive and some of the toughest environmental laws of any State in the Nation. Those laws were passed by the Minnesota Legislature to preserve the natural beauty of our State and to protect our citizens from the hazards of pollution and unwise development. I believe we have been successful for many reasons.

First, we are blessed with an abundance of natural resources and, second, we have made some tragic mistakes in the past and would like to make sure that we don't once again make the same mistakes. We recognize that whatever we do to our resources we also do to ourselves. We know that the natural resources of Minnesota are valuable for their own sake and as a result we have worked to protect and preserve and restore those resources.

This bill seeks to continue the commitment Minnesota has made preserving its natural heritage. I want to show Minnesota's continuing concern for the environment by endorsing the establishment of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreational Area.

Now I'd like to call on Mr. Don Carlson.

STATEMENT OF DON CARLSON, METROPOLITAN REGION ADMINISTRATOR, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. CARLSON. Thank you, Governor.

Senator Ford, Senator Mondale, it's a pleasure to appear before this hearing today and offer the support of the Department of Natural Resources in establishing the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Recreation Area.

The department has long recognized the value of the Minnesota River Valley for its diversity of wildlife habitat and its recreational potential.

Since early time the valley's wildlife and fishery resources have attracted hunters, trappers, and fishermen to the area. Resident wildlife species such as beaver, muskrat, mink, raccoon, gray and red fox, and whitetail deer still inhabit the area. In addition, the lower Minnesota River provides habitat for over 275 species of birds, including thousands of ducks and other waterfowl.

With the establishment of this area the unique resources of the valley will be protected and managed for the benefit of its wildlife species and the human visitors. The area will provide a unique educational resource available to people of all ages. Activities such as hiking, nature study, and photography will also be accommodated. In addition, recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, and trapping would remain an attractive part of the area's recreational use. All of these activities are presently accommodated in the Minnesota River flood plain.

Proper planning and management can assure that they can co-exist as they have since the earliest times. A major issue that must be addressed concerning the planning and management of the area is the subject of funding. The proposed bill states and I quote, "There is hereby authorized to be appropriated under the Land and Water Conservation Act such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act."

Senator Mondale's office has assured the department that an amendment to this bill has been incorporated into the record specifying that the acquisition money will come from the Federal share of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This provision is essential since the State of Minnesota's share of the fund has been committed to other top-priority recreational projects. The State's share of the fund, because it must be used for projects elsewhere in the State, is not nearly adequate to assist in the acquisition of a project of this size.

Another major issue that must be addressed concerning the relationship of the national wildlife refuge and the Minnesota River Valley Trail, the 1969 State legislative session established the Minnesota Valley Trail system extending from Fort Snelling to La Sueur, Minn. Within the bill, the Department of Natural Resources was to establish, develop, maintain, and operate a multiple-use trail for riding and hiking purposes. The legislature's intent was to provide a trail for horseback riding, skiing, hiking, bicycle riding, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and other authorized trail uses. Snowmobiling, although prohibited in Bloomington, was to be allowed in the remaining trail system.

Again, in 1971, the State legislature reiterated their support of the State Valley Trail system by authorizing the purchase of five additional areas within the valley. To date, approximately \$2 million has been expended for land acquisition and trail development. Therefore, to provide the continuation of the Minnesota Valley Trail, we recommend the following revised amendment to the proposed bill:

The Secretary shall provide for the Minnesota Valley Trail authorized by the Minnesota Statutes of 1969, section 85.198, a strip of land being a minimum of 200-feet-wide over and across the National Wildlife Refuge to be available to the State for the purpose of a multiple-use trail. These trail uses shall include, but not be limited to, hiking, bicycle riding, horseback riding, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, and skiing. This provision would implement the intent of the 1969 State legislative action.

The Department of Natural Resources would like to join with the Governor's support of the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Recreation Area. We stress the importance of including the amendments on funding and on the Minnesota Valley Trail. These provisions would make it possible to preserve the diversity of uses in the river valley through wise management.

Finally, we would like to express our appreciation to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Senator Mondale's office for their cooperation with the State Department of Natural Resources in our concern. We hope such cooperation will continue.

Senator FORD. Don, will you be sure that the secretary has a copy of your statement.

Governor ANDERSON. Senator Ford, I would just like to say something about Mr. Marzetelli before I introduce him. I have had the opportunity to appoint hundreds of people to full-time and advisory positions with the State, and I don't know of anybody that I have appointed that has done a better job or has a better background. He held elective office for many years as a member of the city council of St. Paul and headed the city council for a number of years. Then he served as an administrator for the city, and now is my highway com-

missioner, which is I think the most difficult position in the State service. The very fact that we would appoint Frank I think says something about the quality of people we look for.

Senator MONDALE. More than that, for many years, as attorney general, I was his lawyer, and he survived. I think that's a tribute.

STATEMENT OF FRANK MARZETELLI, COMMISSIONER, STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Mr. MARZETELLI. Governor Anderson and Senator Ford could I say "Fritz"?

Senator MONDALE. That's fine.

Mr. MARZETELLI. Senator Mondale, the Minnesota Highway Department, of course, does support the legislation that is being proposed which would create the Minnesota River Valley as a wildlife and recreation resource. However, I think in the establishment of the refuge and recreation area, we should give proper consideration to the total needs of the people in the metropolitan area. That is the total seven-county area, and of course, one of those needs which I feel that I should be representing today is the transportation needs of the seven-county area.

So that in the establishment of the refuge and recreation area I think that we would be in complete support of the amendment that has been proposed to the legislation by Senator Mondale, and that is, of course, that this legislation should not be construed so as to prohibit or prevent the provisions of the vital public services, and it would include the continuation of water transportation—in other words, navigation—and then, of course, too, the construction, the improvement, and the replacement and the maintenance of roads and bridges because there is a tremendous growth in this area, and I do believe that the people's needs insofar as transportation must be recognized.

The Minnesota Highway Department is willing to work with whatever governmental agency is going to be responsible for the implementation of the legislation so that these improvements can be made with a minimum adverse effect if you would refer to it as such, as well as spending or investing those moneys that are necessary in order that the transportation system can be constructed and operated and maintained and still prevent or make possible the coexistence of wildlife with the needs of the people as it relates to transportation.

With that, I want to say that we are very happy for the opportunity of being here this morning and of giving this testimony, and do support the legislation which would create the Minnesota River Valley as a wildlife refuge and recreation resource.

Senator FORD. Thank you very much, Frank.

I have a question or two that I might want to pose to the Governor. He might want to refer them to the gentlemen with him. Senator Mondale is also open to ask questions at any time he feels questions are necessary.

Governor, it's the committee's understanding that urban and recreational facilities in the State are limited, and that demand is expected to increase substantially in the next decade.

Do you believe that this is the case, and if it is, what contributions could an area like the one that's being proposed make to Minnesota's overall park and open space plan?

Governor ANDERSON. Senator Ford, we have a population in Minnesota of 3.8 million people. Approximately 2 million of those people live in the seven-county metropolitan area. We have mentioned earlier that we made some mistakes. In addition to the Minnesota River Valley, we also have the St. Croix River Valley. Both of these valleys are within a 25-minute drive or 35-minute drive of 2 million people.

Great pressure has already been exerted on the St. Croix River Valley and thanks to the cooperation from the Federal Government and local units of government, we have belatedly but very properly provided some help in that area.

In the lower St. Croix River area, there's scores and scores of permits pending for hotels, motels, condominiums, and the rest of it, but we now have legislation that allows us to respond to that kind of pressure.

We desperately need some Federal help and cooperation from local officials and from the State to preserve this very, very unique river valley. When you take off to head back to Washington, you will have an opportunity to fly over the Minnesota River Valley, and it is impressive and beautiful, and we'd like to preserve it and protect it.

Senator FORD. As I understand it, the State is in the process of developing a hiking trail through the Minnesota River Valley. Would this legislation as it's now composed be compatible with the trail, and do you feel it would enhance the program?

Governor ANDERSON. I certainly do. Perhaps Mr. Carlson would care to expand.

Mr. CARLSON. The multiple use trail that has been authorized by the Minnesota Legislature is being developed as rapidly as we can, and the areas which we have developed to date have drawn and attracted many people. The establishment of the national wildlife recreational area will be compatible to the objectives of the legislation and the Department of Natural Resources.

Senator FORD. I have no further questions. Senator Mondale, I believe, has some questions.

Senator MONDALE. Mr. Carlson, with the proposed amendments that we have made to the bill we tried to deal with the funding problems to make it clear that this would be Federal Land and Water Conservation funds and also clearly spell out in a separate amendment the Minnesota hiking trail objective, and we will reshape that amendment to make certain it's defined as you define it in your testimony.

Assuming the adoption of both amendments, as I understand it, then the Department of National Resources fully supports the proposal?

Mr. CARLSON. We do, Senator.

Senator MONDALE. And Commissioner Marzetelli, with the adoption of the pending amendment on highways construction and bridges and the rest, as I understand it, the Highway Department then supports the proposal?

Mr. MARZETELLI. Yes, we do. We would be in full support of the proposal with those amendments.

Senator MONDALE. Thank you very much.

Governor ANDERSON. Just to make one point, last year the State received about \$3 million in LWC funds. As you know, it's supplemented by State funds. We had requests for \$26 million for the \$3.2

million that was available. The legislature responded with bipartisan support for a \$50 million appropriation that came right out of direct revenue.

So I think the interest is here and the commitment and we would very much appreciate your support of Senator Mondale's bill.

Senator MONDALE. We recognize that the State has several projects going on and, as you say, it totals some \$27 million and we're going to be very careful that this proposal is not an additional burden on these other activities that must go forward, and I believe we can do that.

Governor ANDERSON. I would just remind both of you there are a lot of Governors and some mayors who have voiced great criticism over all the federal programs and federal tax dollars. We are concerned with redtape. We are concerned with waste. But I must tell you that we will welcome Federal dollars and if you find that there are some that don't want them you can funnel them this way and they will be warmly received and spent carefully.

Senator FORD. Our next witness is Jack Hemphill, regional director, still hold the same view as you do. I have no further questions.

Senator MONDALE. Thank you very much.

Governor ANDERSON. I hope that both of you will have a chance to come back again.

Senator FORD. Our next witness is Jack Hemphill, regional director, region 3, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Minneapolis.

STATEMENT OF JACK HEMPHILL, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, REGION 3, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Mr. HEMPHILL. Thank you, Senator Ford and Senator Mondale.

I think the real pertinent comments on the value of the area have already been largely stated by the previous speakers. The thing that should be emphasized, however, is the real uniqueness of having this kind of a geological wildlife habitat area on a major river system in the midst of a large metropolitan area that has not really been destroyed or greatly changed to the point that it loses its value for environmental education, for research and for study. Again, we are located here among some very large universities that are nationally recognized for this kind of research. In our efforts nationwide we have never encountered a single area that had the opportunity for this kind of preservation and use by all segments of society and that would have benefits to such a large number of people.

Senator FORD. Jack, do you know of any other area that possesses an urban wildlife resource comparable to the Minnesota Valley in your knowledge and background?

Mr. HEMPHILL. Never, and I have served in all regions of the Fish and Wildlife Service except the New England States and I have yet to encounter one with these broad potentials.

Senator FORD. What might reasonably be expected to happen within the next 10 years if additional controls to curtail development in the Minnesota River Valley are not adopted? Really, what would be the impact on wildlife values and recreational potential of the area?

Mr. HEMPHILL. It's been my observation, having been associated with the part of the Fish and Wildlife Service that attempts to prevent destruction of wetlands, marshes, over the past 15 years that every marshland that you examine someone has a plan for draining or otherwise destroying, that in my view this is probably the last chance to preserve an area of this magnitude and with the unique features that are possessed in the Minnesota River Valley.

Senator FORD. We're trying to protect some of that marsh area along the Ohio River and the Ohio River Valley.

Do you feel that the concept that we are developing here should be extended nationwide? Do you know of any other areas where this concept might be applied.

Mr. HEMPHILL. Yes. I think we're approaching here in this effort the combination of federal, State, county and municipal efforts that is unparalleled. I'm not aware of any such combination of all levels of government attempting to plan and organize a method by which all of the values that are so dear to the public in this day and time can receive equal treatment with balanced input from all levels, from the individual citizen through the Federal Government.

I think one of the unique things in looking at the map of the area is that even though industry hasn't been greatly mentioned here, a part of the planning process was to see that these areas are also receiving equal consideration.

Senator MONDALE. I'd say to Senator Ford, this summer we took a trip up and down the valley. Having grown up in southern Minnesota I have been by it many, many times but this is the first time I have really gotten down there to see it. It's really remarkable how wildlife lives contentedly right alongside a grain elevator or something like that. It's quite an impressive sight and it is still despite the commerce there and it is crucial commerce for us. It is an absolutely spectacular wildlife reserve and I wish we had time to travel through it today. I guess we're not going to but at least we're going to have a chance to look at it from the bluff.

And you're absolutely right, Mr. Hemphill, it's an absolutely remarkable place.

Senator FORD. Do you think you will have any problem with control of excessive use or littering and that sort of thing? Do you think this can be protected?

Mr. HEMPHILL. Yes.

Senator FORD. I'm talking about improper use and littering. We have the Red River Gorge in my area and I don't want to refer to my area too much but I'm knowledgeable of that. It seems like the human litter is most damaging to the whole area, where people go and build camp fires and walk off and leave it and they don't clean up as they should.

Will you be able to protect this area? I know you won't be able to hit it all. It's pretty tough. But will you be able to control most of it?

Mr. HEMPHILL. I think again the concept of multiple level of government offers an opportunity that we're not familiar with in the Fish and Wildlife Service. We operate refuges that have upward of 3 million man-days of recreational use and it's all our responsibility. We do contend with it and do a reasonable job. I'm speaking of such areas as Wichita Mountains, a national wildlife refuge in upper Minnesota.

But this is a situation whereby we would have the opportunity for all levels of law enforcement, patrol, that do not exist on our present areas, and I see the sharing of the responsibilities as being a very real asset in terms of public administration.

Senator MONDALE. I have no questions, except to express my appreciation to the Fish and Wildlife Service for your very effective and creative work in helping to develop this proposal and I thank Mr. Hemphill personally, but also Ed Koshler and Ted Tahlhoff for important and crucial assistance in development of this proposal.

Mr. HEMPHILL. Thank you, sir.

Senator FORD. Mr. William Kirchner, State senator from Richfield. We have a large group of governmental officials, the mayor of Bloomington, the chairman of the Scott County Board of Commissioners, Mr. Earl Marlow, Ramsey County Open Space, Marty Jessen, director, Eden Prairie Park and Recreation, Glenn Northrup, planning director, Burnsville and Jack Mauritz, Hennepin County Park Reserve District.

Senator MONDALE. We might ask Senator Schmitz to come up, too. I saw him around.

Senator FORD. Bill, we'll let you start off and we'll go from there. If you want to have a statement you'd like to make—and I believe we have a copy of it—

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM G. KIRCHNER, STATE SENATOR, RICHFIELD, MINN.

Mr. KIRCHNER. Thank you, Senator Ford.

Mr. Chairman and Senator Mondale, we thank you very much for the opportunity to present some thoughts. My statement is a very simple one. I leave the technical details to those who have gathered the information. It's obvious from the presentations already made that the wonders of the Minnesota River Valley will be extolled many times. I hope my presence will further verify the broad approval existing for the project.

Portions of the legislative district which I represent border the proposed area. I have traversed the area in person quite a number of times. The Minnesota River floodplain has been exposed to settlement for years and during these years an impressive population, approximately 1½ million, has built up in the two counties immediately embracing the site.

The juncture of the rivers, including the aforementioned Hennepin and Ramsey Counties as the center of a suburban population of approximately 2.3 million, all residing within a maximum of less than an hour transportation to the site. This metropolitan area is a highly respected recreational area for thousands of people who come from all over the United States annually to visit the upper Midwest vacation area.

Some portions of the river are in almost the same condition as they were when the first settlers came from the upper Midwest. Other areas show environmental ravages brought by people and development.

Senator FORD. Senator Schmitz, do you have a statement you would like to make?

STATEMENT OF JIM SCHMITZ, STATE SENATOR, MINNESOTA STATE
LEGISLATURE

Mr. SCHMITZ. Mr. Chairman, Senator Mondale, with all due respect to Senator Ford, we feel in Minnesota that it's difficult to contain our excitement about the senatorial delegation that we send down as your colleagues. We believe in both Senator Mondale and Senator Humphrey that we have the two finest U.S. Senators that are in Washington today.

Senator MONDALE. That's true.

Senator FORD. Just remember some of us are gaining on them.

Mr. SCHMITZ. I hope you can understand our enthusiasm and our concern.

Senator FORD. You're very fortunate.

Mr. SCHMITZ. I represent district 36, in Scott County, and that is the area that a great portion of this bill will be dealing with.

I have nothing prepared but I just want to tell you, just in a very short time what my concerns are.

Certainly we do all support the concept of the wildlife preservation. Certainly this is very valid and I'm sure that all of us are in complete accord with that. However, there is considerable opposition to the bill from district 36. This opposition to the bill comes primarily because of what my people feel is a need for future facilities that may be impeded by the fact that there's a wildlife preservation area set aside in this bill.

To give you an understanding about the growth in our area, Scott County in 1960 had a population of 22,000 people. In 1970 it was 32,000 people. So we do have a tremendous rate of growth and, of course, along with that rate of growth there's a tremendous need for all types of facilities such as power lines, the highways, the bridges, and extended barge traffic. So I'm sure this motivates my people into concerns that I have expressed before to you, Senator Mondale, and we have certainly appreciated the amendments that you have attached to the bill.

However, I believe—and from what I hear from my constituents, even the amendments have a little bit of a gray area and a concern for the people.

So I would conclude by saying that there was some question as to Commissioner Koniarsky, the chairman of the Scott County Board's testimony in the past, that may be a particular special interest or a personal viewpoint and I can assure you that it is not. The concerns—he adequately expresses the concerns of the people of Shakopee and of Savage and of the Scott County areas. So when his testimony is given I would hope that you would have that in mind.

Senator MONDALE. I was wondering if it would make sense to hear from Chairman Koniarsky now and then Mayor Benedict. Maybe we could hear from them in that order, if it's all right with you, Mr. Chairman, because they all speak to the concerns of the Scott County and Shakopee.

Senator FORD. That would be fine.

STATEMENT OF BILL KONIARSKY, CHAIRMAN OF THE SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mr. KONIARSKY. My name is Bill Koniarsky. I'm chairman of the Scott County Board of Commissioners and, Mr. Chairman, Senator Ford, Senator Mondale, on behalf of the Scott County Board of Commissioners, I certainly welcome this opportunity to present Scott County's position in regard to the proposed Senate bill 3907 in regard to the amendment.

Scott County Board of Commissioners went on record on August 19 in a resolution conveying Scott County's position to provide for the establishment of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area:

Whereas over the near past decade, Scott County has supported and been actively involved, contributing both in-kind and financial assistance, in promoting the development of parks, open space and recreational areas in the metropolitan area and particularly Scott County; and

"Whereas Scott County has an equal responsibility and obligation to its communities as well as its neighboring counties south of the Minnesota River to promote and protect their orderly growth and development; and

"Whereas, towards this end, Scott County has been an Active party to an ongoing effort by Hennepin and Scott Counties and the Cities of Bloomington, Shakopee and Savage under the recent years leadership of the 18-169 Corridor Committee, before the past three sessions of the Minnesota Legislature, to promote the enactment of a bill for a bridge crossing to span the Minnesota River at a location contained within the boundaries of the proposed Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area; and

Whereas, with the present conditions of congested roads and bridges providing access to location south of the Minnesota River, a new bridge crossing between the present 35W and Shakopee bridges is essential to the orderly growth and development of Scott County and other communities south of the Minnesota River and dependent upon ready access to the metropolitan and neighboring areas; and

Whereas without such a new river crossing, Scott County's potential industrial growth has been and will continue to be hindered, thus curtailing the potential economic growth of this county community essential to providing the necessary public services to such developments as proposed in S. 2097: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Board of Commissioners' in and for the County of Scott, Minnesota, goes on record herewith, opposing Congressional File S. 2097; a bill to provide for the establishment of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area, until such time as plans have been formulated and approved by Federal, State and local government jurisdictions, for a bridge crossing to span the Minnesota River in the immediate area of Hennepin CSAH 18 and Scott CSAH 25; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be forwarded to U.S. Senators Walter Mondale and Hubert Humphrey, members of the Minnesota Congressional, Governor Anderson, State Senate and House Members comprising the Scott County Legislative Delegation, Hennepin County Board of Commissioner, Boards of Commissioners of Counties south of the Minnesota River, the Cities of Bloomington and Eden Prairie, all municipalities within Scott County and the Chairman of the 18-169 Corridor Committee, by the County Administrator.

Scott County Board also has a statement of position just recently and if I may read this, Mr. Chairman—

Senator FORD. We have a copy of that for the record?

Mr. KONIARSKY. OK, but I'd like to read it if I may.

Senator FORD. You sure may.

Mr. KONIARSKY. The Scott County Board of Commissioners opposed the bill on the strength that this project would further delay, if not totally preclude, construction of a bridge without the inclusion of provisions in the bill committing the approval by the Federal Government

of a plan for a bridge crossing. This position results from several years of experience we have had in dealing with the intense opposition of environmental groups throughout the entire process in which the local units of government worked desperately to promote bridge legislation in the Minnesota Legislature but without success. We attribute the failure of our bill mainly to the efforts of these environmentalists who appear to be the very force behind the promotion of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Area project and feel that their involvement poses the rather permanent threat to our future bridge efforts. We have reviewed carefully the proposed amendment No. 1023 to S. 2097 with particular respect to those provisions regarding the Minnesota River as a corridor linking heavily populated communities to the Twin Cities metropolitan area. However, the amendment offers no firm commitment to the bridge crossing and consequently does not satisfy our concerns with this project. In fact, the project lends greater impetus to the efforts of the environmentalists to prevent the present or future construction of a river bridge crossing we have supported and promoted and creates a new obstacle for proponents of the bridge to overcome.

Mr. Chairman, the members of the Scott County Board of Commissioners, however, are open for further discussion and if I may add, this position or similar position has been supported by the city of Shakopee, by the city of Savage and also supported by the Carver County Soil Conservation Group in a letter to Senator Schmitz.

I would certainly stand for questions. I have copies of all these resolutions if you wish to have them.

Senator MONDALE. Mr. Chairman, I think we should have the letter as well as the resolution.

Senator FORD. We have the resolution here but I would like to have a copy of the letter because it goes beyond your original statement.

Senator MONDALE. And I think we ought to, if it's all right with the chairman, hear from the mayor of Shakopee at this time. What I was going to suggest to the Scott County people here is that in about 10 days I will be back again and I thought we could sit down as a group and go over this matter and see what we can work out. I'd be glad to meet with the county board and with the officials of Shakopee and so on and see what we can do to resolve this.

Senator FORD. Basically this is the reason for the hearing, for us to come out here so you all can have some input into this proposal. We're holding this hearing so we are able to find spots that need to be corrected, things that will create some problems, areas that need to be changed in order to make the legislation much better. Senator Mondale has said that he will come and sit down with you in about 10 days and look at the problems that you relate here and see if we can't work them out—and I'm sure the committee would be very amenable to his suggestions.

Mr. KONLARSKY. We would certainly appreciate that.

Mr. KIRCHNER. I wonder if one sentence might be included at some point and that is that the bridge item has been more than just an environmental hurdle to overcome in the sense of highway priority funding and other items which I presume will be investigated by your committee.

Senator MONDALE. Mayor Benedict.

**STATEMENT OF ROBERT M. BENEDICT, MAYOR,
BLOOMINGTON, MINN.**

MAYOR BENEDICT. Senator Ford, we are particularly delighted to have you here today in the city of Bloomington, and feeling the way we do about Senator Mondale and about this proposal we wanted to offer you a little different weather than we greeted the Atlanta Falcons with yesterday and I think we have done that.

I did have the opportunity to visit your State off and on for about 4 years between 1967 and 1970. It's a beautiful area. There are wonderful people in that area and I think that they really have a feeling for the land and very strong feeling and, of course, related very, very strongly when they saw some of the strip mining things that were happening in that area. In fact, as you go in that river bottom area and look up at some of the rolling plains I think it will remind you somewhat of that same area and I think our people have some of the same feelings in wanting to see that area protected.

I really appreciate the comments about this area that have been made today because the river valley area forms our eastern and southern boundaries for the city of Bloomington.

Through public hearings it's been the policy of our city to acquire the entire area to protect it for future generations but I guess the thing that I would reiterate today is the fact that we at a local level just do not have the wherewithal to be able to acquire that. We are gaining a sense of urgency about it because we don't want anything to happen to this and we see this particular proposal by Senator Mondale as giving us the wherewithal, the ability to be able to acquire this for future generations.

While we do have specific concerns about policing the area, about maintenance, about transportation corridors and trails, we believe that today's the day to really put our full support behind the very farsighted and very noble type proposal. And those are concerns; they are not opposition, and to reemphasize that I guess I would like to read in the record if I could the resolution that was passed unanimously by the Bloomington City Council.

It reads:

Whereas the City Council of the city of Bloomington is the official governing body of the city of Bloomington; and

Whereas interested citizens have requested, through their U.S. Congressmen, that a plan be prepared for acquiring land and developing a national wildlife refuge in the lower Minnesota River Valley; and

Whereas the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior has prepared a plan which would provide for wildlife and waterfowl production and maintenance, open space, environmental education, recreational trails, and natural flood control; and

Whereas these uses are compatible with the 1974 approved city of Bloomington park plan and with the maintenance of the highest quality of this environment; and

Whereas efforts need to be made to protect the natural habitats for wildlife in the Minnesota River Valley; and

Whereas the Planning Commission, the Natural Resources Commission, and the Park and Recreation Commission of the city of Bloomington have approved resolutions advising the city council of their concept approval of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge proposal: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the city council of the city of Bloomington in regular meeting assembled, That the proposed plan for a Minnesota Valley National wildlife Refuge is hereby approved; and the City Council, therefore, requests the sup-

port of the Governor of the State of Minnesota and requests the U.S. congressional delegation to sponsor enabling legislation for enactment by the U.S. Congress.

This was unanimously approved.

Senator FORD. May we have a copy of that?

Mayor BENEDICT. Senator, I will say that we did bring with us the staff of the city of Bloomington. They do have the maps of the area and the particulars as well. I would like to discuss some of the policing concerns that have been brought up, but again, our full support is behind this proposal.

Senator MONDALE. At about the same time we get together later we can go into some of those detailed problems that you see.

Mayor BENEDICT. Excellent.

Senator FORD. Jack Hemphill indicated earlier it was going to be much better with the three-tier operation in the beginning as far as the policing, yet it is a problem and will be a problem because you will have vacationers coming from all parts of the country into this area. I'm sure that is a concern to you. You will also have an increased local activity when you have the various buildings. So it does create some problems, but I'd rather have the problems of growth and improvement than the problems of deterioration and migration.

Mayor BENEDICT. Knowing some of the other areas that the Fish and Wildlife Service have worked on and knowing what kind of job they have done, we have a lot of confidence that this can be worked out.

Senator FORD. With the right kind of attitude locally and otherwise, I think it would be very beneficial and will prevent a lot of problems which would come up.

I really have no questions for you.

Senator MONDALE. Thank you very much for your support.

Let's see. We might go to Mr. Swanson now who represents this area.

STATEMENT OF JIM SWANSON, FORT SNELLING, MINN.

Mr. SWANSON. Mr. Chairman and Senator Mondale, I am very pleased that you would come out to our area here and look firsthand at some of our problems. I do represent this area, especially Fort Snelling.

We want to give you wide support toward this bill. Senator Mondale, we especially appreciate the amendments that you have added to it.

The concern that we would have or that I would have in the area, as was mentioned before, Fort Snelling State Park is already the most heavily used State park in Minnesota and really it has not been advertised. In fact, they have been afraid to advertise it because we really haven't had all the facilities ready.

Senator MONDALE. That's true, Jim. I remember when I took my son out there and there were a few sites open and I said we ought to advertise this, and he said, no, no, we'll never be able to even remotely reach the need in this area, and so you get in a strange thing. You've got State money building a State park and then they want to keep it a secret so they don't destroy the place by overusage and that shows the need for this kind of thing. People really want this sort of thing.

Mr. SWANSON. This will really give Fort Snelling State Park the support that we need.

The other problem we have now is we established a State zoo which is across the river, and the link between the metropolitan area and the State zoo is Cedar Avenue Bridge, and so that with the amendments that you have in here, I think that will help us improve this bridge which is certainly one of the worst in the State, and with a very positive attitude that the bill is not intended to stop the progress of that bridge, I'm sure that the amendments will work it out.

With that, I give you my wholehearted support.

Senator FORD. Thank you very much.

**STATEMENT OF HOWARD DAHLTON, APPEARING FOR GLENN
NORTHUP, PLANNING DIRECTOR, BURNSVILLE**

Mr. DAHLTON. I'm Howard Dahlton. I'm appearing for Mr. Northup. I'm a planning consultant to the city of Burnsville and have been since the city was first planned some 15 years ago. The city of Burnsville endorses the concept of the development of the wildlife refuge. However, the city of Burnsville has a unique problem in the sense that approximately 40 percent of the industrial land zoned in the city of Burnsville is represented by the Northern States Power whose property is a major portion of the land being considered for the wildlife refuge.

In the city of Burnsville, basically, these are the properties east of 35 W. and south of the Minnesota River. To demonstrate the nature of our problem, we have done just a brief analysis on the impact on the city's tax base based on the analysis of the Northern States property alone. That property consists of 1,430 acres, and assuming that 100 acres would be retained for the powerplant plus some 500 acres for the lake itself, this would leave for development potential of approximately 608 acres of land which if the easement is applied will not be developed.

Now, if you go down through the analysis, you will find that this represents a total of development value of over a period of time, perhaps 25 years, of about \$188 million, assuming just a conservative estimate of the amount of development that would occur and taking out the amount of raw land for roads and these other things that are a part of the typical industrial park.

Senator MONDALE. This calculation is based upon your estimates of lost revenue from future development. You understand the NSP plant will remain there and be subject to taxation?

Mr. DAHLTON. Yes. That's correct. What we are talking here is the impact of lack of development that will occur on raw land that is part of the proposed wildlife area. As I say, I want to emphasize again we are not against the concept. We are not against the park. What I'm pointing out is a unique problem that exists with the city of Burnsville with the loss of revenue with these important parts of the city, and it's important to the city. Just these 1,430 acres alone represents 40 percent of the total industrial development in the community. What this means in the overall, without going through the analysis in detail, is that over a 25-year period we would lose in the city of Burnsville and the school district a total of \$213 million in potential tax revenue.

Senator FORD. Over a 25-year period?

Mr. DAHLTON. Yes. Now, the information I gave you analyzes on a yearly basis, given the assumptions that I've noted, so you have an in-

dication of the increments of losses that we incur over a period of time. What we suggest is that some means of compensation be worked out whereby the city would be treated fairly in terms of this potential loss. Certainly we are not looking for all of the loss. We are looking for fair treatment, keeping the concept that we endorse setting up the wildlife area, but treating the citizens of Burnsville in a fair manner due to this exceptional loss. There will be a large percentage of industrial land that will be taken off the tax rolls through this bill.

Senator FORD. I think there will be other payments in lieu of tax-payment to your community—that will be worked out at a later date, under provisions of the Revenue Sharing Act.

Just a point or two under the potential tax base and its growth. I think you will find that the legislation and the procedure that will be adopted there will curtail the city's need for expanding of sewer and water and maybe other things, and you will be getting those taxes in lieu of that expenditure. You may come out in the long run, when you put that factor into it, and I would be hopeful that you would not find yourselves in an untenable position of losing money. I think in lieu of tax base or loss of taxes can be compensated and compensated adequately.

Mr. DAHLTON. We recognize, Senator, the long-range potential. We would hope, however, though, as a part of the bill we would work out in the days ahead some kind of measure to offer some kind of compensation for this loss. Some of the sewers and utilities that were planned for the future are there, and therefore we have some funds already invested in terms of serving this vital area of the community.

Senator FORD. As I said earlier, this is the reason for these hearings, so we can come down and find out the problems.

Senator MONDALE. In other words, you have utilities in place anticipating industrial development there?

Mr. DAHLTON. Yes.

Senator MONDALE. How much do you have?

Mr. DAHALTON. I don't have the exact figures, but we have main sewer trunks.

Senator MONDALE. How much money do you think you have in it?

Mr. DAHALTON. A considerable amount of money. I don't have the exact figures, but I would be glad to give you the figures.

Senator FORD. Would you do this for the purpose of the hearings, submit within the next 10 days an estimate of the value in place or actual cost in place? You would have those figures if you already have them in.

Mr. DAHLTON. We would be happy to do that.¹

Senator FORD. We would appreciate it. I have no further questions.

Senator MONDALE. I have none.

Senator FORD. Marty Jessen.

STATEMENT OF MARTY JESSEN, DIRECTOR, EDEN PRAIRIE PARK AND RECREATION

Mr. JESSEN. Senator Ford and Senator Mondale, I would like to present for the record the position of the Eden Prairie City Council with regard to the proposed Minnesota Valley Wildlife Recreation Area.

¹ See p. 74.

The Eden Prairie City Council and the Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Commission, after thorough study of the concept of a Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area, has adopted a resolution supporting this concept.

Eden Prairie has been vitally concerned with the preservation of natural resources within our community. The 1968 comprehensive guide plan for community development protects those resources. One of the major elements in the guide plan of 1968 is an open space along the Minnesota River as it traverses our community. We have to date acquired several other resources within the community for public benefit.

The creation of a national wildlife recreation area in the Minnesota River Valley is consistent with all of the community positions and its development of the comprehensive guide plan.

A couple of concerns which we wish to express to you with respect to the proposed legislation are as follows: We urge that the annual revenue sharing payment go to the local units of government as the city will have costs associated with assisting the Fish and Wildlife Service in management, supervision and protection of the area. We would like to be assured that these annual payments will be funneled down to the local units of government bearing these costs.

We are also concerned with maintenance and supervision requirements for the area and hope that they will be well planned for. We believe that an urban wildlife recreation area will require more maintenance effort than those in non-urban areas because of the intensive use which they will no doubt receive from residents of the metropolitan region.

We are specifically concerned with the use of snowmobiles and would like to urge that snowmobile use be prohibited. If they are to be a permitted use, however, we hope that they will be limited only to areas where appropriate after thorough studies are made on the impact on the wildlife.

Senator MONDALE. We have put in an amendment to deal with the funneling down of that revenue sharing and we agree completely and I'm sure that amendment will be adopted.

Now snowmobiles, as I understand it, that's entirely up to the communities in which the area is located. In other words, that part that's now within your incorporated limits, if you ban snowmobiles, there will be no snowmobiles in that area.

Mr. JESSEN. Fine; that being the case, we look forward to participating with the Fish and Wildlife Service and others in providing input into management and planning operation of the facility. We are pleased to see that the Federal Government has a proposal for preservation of the Minnesota River Valley area. The scale of the resource and the scope of the project make Federal involvement appropriate rather than leaving this responsibility entirely with the local units of government which do not have financial resources to tackle such a project.

We strongly support this action and look forward to the enactment of legislation making it a reality. Thank you.

Senator FORD. Thank you.

Jack Mauritz, Hennepin County Park Reserve District.

Senator MONDALE. Is Walter Bratt here? Walter is a member of the same district.

STATEMENT OF JACK MAURITZ, HENNEPIN COUNTY PARK RESERVE DISTRICT

Mr. MAURITZ. Mr. Chairman, Senator Mondale, I'm Jack Mauritz. I'm with the Hennepin County Park Reserve District and have been delegated to represent the district here today.

We do have a brief statement and a resolution that we would like entered for the record.

Senator FORD. Do you have an extra copy?

Mr. MAURITZ. Yes; I do.

The Board of Commissioners of the Hennepin County Park Reserve District, upon study of the proposal, has taken a position favoring the project. A copy of the resolution passed by the commissioners is included in this testimony.

For reasons stated in the resolution, the district believes establishment of the refuge and recreation area to be in the long-term best interest of the people of Hennepin County. Some specific matters requiring resolution remain. Those which appear most important to the district include:

1. Resolution of a reasonable road and utilities corridor in the Scott County section of the Minnesota River.
2. Resolution of questions involving river traffic and channel maintenance.

The district is aware of the concerns involved in these questions both from the standpoint of environmental and esthetic impacts and from the point of view of economic and social needs. It would appear that careful study and wise planning can provide satisfactory answers to both these questions.

In conclusion, the Hennepin County Park Reserve District wishes to reaffirm its support for the concept expressed within this plan. The immense value for recreation of the remaining resources of the metropolitan segment of the Minnesota River Valley must both be protected against further degradation and made available for the open space needs of the public.

The resolution is as follows:

Whereas, the Minnesota River Valley still retains much of its natural beauty and character between Fort Snelling and southwestern Scott County, and

Whereas, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposes to acquire land to establish the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge for purposes of preserving and managing some of the remaining natural resources of the Minnesota River adjacent to the Twin Cities, and

Whereas, the Hennepin County Park Reserve District has similar interests and concerns in adjacent property contained within the James W. Wilkie Regional Park Reserve, including the management and interpretation of wetland habitat, and

Whereas, the rights of property owners and municipalities in the proposed acquisition area have been provided for, and input from individuals and municipalities will be considered: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Hennepin County Park Reserve District supports the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposed Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, and

Further, That cooperative efforts be considered to establish viable wildlife management and nature interpretation programs.

Sir, for the reasons in this resolution, the district believes establishment of this refuge and recreation area to be in the long-term best interest of Hennepin County.

There are specific matters requiring resolution. They have been addressed primarily in the amendments. Those that appear most important to the district include resolution of a reasonable road and utilities corridor in the Scott County section of the Minnesota River and resolution of questions involving river traffic and channel maintenance.

It would appear, however, that careful study and wise planning can provide satisfactory answers to both these questions.

From the staff point of view of the district, it expresses the need for more joint action in planning for management interpretation. I might point out that currently the district is providing interpretation and ranger service in a piece of property in excess of 1,000 acres within this river valley.

Senator MONDALE. I think it would be well if we talked more with you afterwards and see how that could be fully coordinated.

Now the master plan proposal would call upon the cooperation of all the governments in the area and that's where this would occur, but it would be well to know exactly what you have in mind.

Mr. MAURITZ. Yes, indeed.

Senator FORD. Mr. Bratt, would you care to proceed? Do you have a statement that you'd like to make?

STATEMENT OF WALTER BRATT, HENNEPIN COUNTY PARK RESERVE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

Mr. BRATT. Senator Ford and Senator Mondale, it is indeed a delight to be here and participate in this endeavor.

As a Hennepin County Park Commissioner, I would like to speak for the Board or Commissioners in urging the establishment of the Minnesota River Valley Wildlife Refuge.

The Hennepin County Park Reserve District was created to acquire open space and to preserve a portion of our natural heritage from the encroachments of urban growth. The physiographic heritage in this metropolitan area includes morainic hills, forests, virgin prairie, lakes, and river valleys.

The reserves include only remnants of the forests and virgin prairie land that existed here 150 years ago. Most of the forests have been destroyed. They were in a transition area between the hardwoods and the prairie, but the Big Woods have almost completely disappeared because of agriculture and urban development, and what remains is difficult to locate.

In the same way, small patches of prairie are scattered throughout Hennepin County, but for the most part these prairie remnants have lost their identity in the maze of development.

The lakes have been a manageable natural resource, and have perhaps been best preserved and appreciated in a variety of ways, through both private ownership and governmental agencies.

But the dominant natural feature of the entire metropolitan area is the three river system of the Minnesota from the west, the Mississippi from the north, and the St. Croix from the northeast, and their coming together here as the first major confluence of the Mississippi to form the great Mississippi River.

The overall regional significance of this unique and outstanding natural heritage has only recently been fully appreciated, and the St. Croix and Upper Mississippi Rivers are being or will be protected by the Federal Wild Rivers and the State Critical Areas Acts, along with the protection already afforded by city, county, and State parks.

Hennepin County is bordered by both the Mississippi and the Minnesota Rivers. But although the Hennepin County Park Reserve District has preserved areas of open space along the river corridors, it is difficult for a local unit of government to do anything substantial for such a large linear area as a river valley encompasses. And I might add here that we do have the one park, Wilkie, which is a 1,000-acre park in the middle of the proposed refuge and we welcome jointly working out the difficulties in partnership together, but the possibility of including the Minnesota River Valley as a wildlife refuge would add significant acreage of open space to the Hennepin County and greater metropolitan area, and enhance the areas of open space already preserved.

We welcome this possibility and recognize it as an imaginative use of government at different levels to accomplish a conservation goal that is important to all of us, both on the national as well as the local level. Thank you.

Senator FORD. Thank you very much.

Senator MONDALE. I have no questions. Thanks a lot.

Senator FORD. We have another group of witnesses: Chuck Griffith, National Wildlife Federation; Forrest Carpenter, National Wildlife Refuge Association; Nancy Sullivan, Burnsville Environmental Council; Jim Ross, Minnesota Conservation Federation; Al Pease, executive committee, Northstar Sierra Club; Howard Eidem, National Campers & Hikers Association; Fritz Rahr, Izaak Walton League, Bloomington; and Les Blacklock, Audubon Society.

Senator MONDALE. Mr. Chairman, may I suggest to this group, which I think supports the measure, that in order to avoid repetition, that if it has written statements let's receive them for the record, and if each of you would simply make such additional points as you think need to be made or simply emphasize your support I think that might be the way to proceed.

Senator FORD. Every statement here today will be part of the record and we have some 20 more witnesses and it's going to be a long day. I don't mind the length of it but I would like everybody at least to have the opportunity to enter their statements and make some comments. So we'll start down the list.

STATEMENT OF CHUCK GRIFFITH, NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Mr. GRIFFITH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to thank you and Senator Mondale on behalf of the National Wildlife Federation for the opportunity to present our views here.

As you say, we have a large number of witnesses and a great deal of testimony to hear, so other than saying that we endorse S. 2097—the principles and proposals embodied in S. 2097 and the subsequent changes to the original bill—other than that, I would like to limit

my remarks to calling attention to two things that we think are extremely important.

The first one which has been covered in previous testimony is the importance of the lower Minnesota River Valley and its marshes to migratory waterfowl and I will just simply say that we have tremendously valuable wetlands that can be protected by this refuge. If we don't do that, the natural values there will be lost for all time. It is a loss that neither Minnesota nor the Nation can afford.

The second point that I'd like to make that hasn't been addressed this morning is the federation is most pleased to see that the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund moneys will be used under this proposal for the acquisition of all project lands by the Federal Government. The federation has been concerned, and greatly so, for several years that wildlife and wildlife habitats were getting short shrift in the dispensing of LWCF moneys. The federation has not accepted the philosophy of the agencies administering these funds that all or most of these funds should be used for urban recreational developments, including the heavy emphasis we've seen on such developments as tennis courts, indoor recreational facilities, and golf courses, to the complete exclusion of projects such as the one we are discussing today.

We believe that the use of LWCF moneys for the acquisition of Federal lands under this project sets a precedent and we welcome that precedent. We believe that we have a unique opportunity here to provide millions of persons in this area with wildlife observation study and environmental education experiences that far outweigh long-term public education values of the other kinds of experiences afforded by urban playgrounds and urban parks.

So we would hope that the committee would resist every effort to alter the bill. We hope that you will stick by the proposal to fund this project entirely with LWCF funds.

We also want to reiterate one point brought up very recently by one of the other spokesmen here and that pertains to if and when this project becomes a reality we would like the committee to remember to work for adequate funding of the Fish and Wildlife Service so that proper maintenance and operation of this refuge and recreation area can be carried out.

We know that both of you are certainly aware of the financial constraints all the Federal resource agencies are operating under and we think it would be a shame to acquire this unique area and see it deteriorate because it doesn't have the adequate ongoing funds.

Senator FORP. I might advise you that the committee is looking into the funding deficiencies right now and we are right on top of it. Hopefully we can eliminate your fear.

[The statement follows:]

STATEMENT OF CHARLES J. GRIFFITH, NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION REGIONAL
EXECUTIVE

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the National Wildlife Federation, I would like to thank you for the invitation to present our views at this hearing on the proposed Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area. I want to commend Senator Mondale for his active interest in this proposal, the members of the Senate Committee on Commerce for taking time from their busy schedules to meet with us, to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for its excellent efforts in gathering and analyzing the formidable mass of information necessary to develop this

proposal and make numerous important decision attendant to this proposal, and to the wide variety of citizens groups and concerned individuals who have spent so many thousands of hours these past several years in efforts to make this wildlife refuge and recreation area a reality.

Mr. Chairman, the National Wildlife Federation is a private, non-profit organization which seeks to attain conservation goals through educational means. Established in 1936, the Federation today is supported by approximately 3.5 million individuals who are members of our affiliates in all 50 states, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands; hold direct associate memberships; or contribute to the Federation in other ways. Since NWF was first organized, it has strongly supported the national wildlife refuge system in its efforts to protect and properly manage the natural resources found on those refuges, including the resident and migratory wildlife species which depend on these refuges as vital links in the habitat chain so important to their survival.

Mr. Chairman, the NWF has studied the proposals of the Fish and Wildlife Service for this refuge and recreation area and the related proposals of the state and local governments and concerned citizens for additional non-federal areas which would complement and help protect the unique natural values still present in the Lower Minnesota River Valley. Because of the widespread interest in this hearing and the number of individuals and organizations which have asked to testify here today, NWF will not take your time in commenting on the individual details of these proposals except to state that NWF is in full agreement with the principles of the proposal as embodied in S. 2097 and the subsequent changes to the original bill.

NWF would like to draw the Committee's attention to two points which are most relevant to this hearing and to this proposal.

The first is the fact that the habitat of most migratory birds, whether they are waterfowl, shore birds or song birds, is rapidly disappearing in the United States. You are aware of the fact that literally millions of acres of small wetlands on the high plains have been lost to agricultural drainage and to the encroachment of industry, residential housing and highways. But we also have suffered equally serious losses in migration habitat, those wetlands so vital to migratory birds during the spring and fall each year. Thus, the Lower Minnesota River Valley, with its rich marshes, increases in value to the nation each year. Without the protection of these wetlands by creation of this refuge, these natural values soon will be lost for all time. It is a loss that neither Minnesota nor the nation can afford.

The second point is that the National Wildlife Federation is most pleased to see that federal land and Water Conservation Fund monies will be used, under this proposal, for the acquisition of all project lands by the Federal Government. NWF has been concerned, and greatly so, for several years that wildlife and wildlife habitats were getting short shrift in the dispensing of LWCF monies. NWF has not accepted the philosophy of the agencies administering these funds that all or most of these funds should be used for urban recreational developments, including the heavy emphasis we've seen on such developments as tennis courts, indoor recreational facilities and golf courses, to the complete exclusion of projects such as the one we are discussing today.

If use of LWCF monies for all of the acquisition necessary to establishment of this refuge and recreation area thus establishes a precedent, then the National Wildlife Federation welcomes it. We believe that we have an unique opportunity here to provide millions of persons in this area with wildlife observation, study and environmental education experiences that far outweigh, in long-term public educational values, the other kinds of experiences afforded by playgrounds and urban parks.

We would hope, then, that the Committee members will resist every effort which might be made to alter the proposed funding of this project so that LWCF monies are not used. Only two other major wildlife habitat projects, the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge and a refuge near Philadelphia, have been funded by LWCF monies. NWF does not believe that the original intent of Congress in enacting LWCF legislation envisioned wildlife being shortchanged to this degree.

NWF also wishes to ask the members of this Committee, if and when this project becomes a reality, to remember to work for adequate funding of the Fish and Wildlife Service so that proper maintenance and operation of this refuge and recreation area can be carried out. All of you are aware of the pressing financial

constraints all federal resource management agencies are experiencing now. Adequate acquisition funds must be supplemented by adequate O&M funds if the natural values of this river valley are to be protected for future generations.

The National Wildlife Federation appreciates the opportunity to present these comments.

Senator FORD. Our next witness is Forrest Carpenter.

STATEMENT OF FORREST CARPENTER, NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ASSOCIATION

Mr. CARPENTER. I am Forrest Carpenter. I am a resident of Scott County, Minn. I appear before your subcommittee today as president of the National Wildlife Refuge Association, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Minnesota and dedicated to the preservation and perpetuation of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

I welcome the opportunity to again testify before this subcommittee. On September 22, 1975, in Washington, D.C., I appeared before this subcommittee's oversight hearings regarding the overall condition of the National Wildlife Refuge System and how it is being managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. While our interest focuses generally on the refuge system as a whole, today we are concerned with a single unit proposed for addition to this Nation's important National Wildlife Refuge System.

The National Wildlife Refuge Association supports S. 2097 and urges its enactment. We fully support the establishment of National Wildlife Recreation areas as individual legislative actions or as a concept of S. 1268, the proposed National Wildlife Refuge Organic Act.

We are especially pleased with the proposal to establish the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area and Wildlife Refuge. The lower Minnesota River flood plain is an incomparable urban resource, a unique place where wildlife and its habitat can be maintained specifically for man's enjoyment and utilization, indirectly serving purposes far greater than recreation alone. In addition to its values for environmental education, hiking, birdwatching, photography, hunting, and fishing, the establishment of the area as a recreation area also provides the most economical type of land use that requires no flood protection and at the same time offers a great deal to the general public. Also, it will provide open space that can be enjoyed by all of the metro residents whether they use the area or not. It will preserve the natural beauty of the area as well as preserve and help to interpret and restore historic sites.

The establishment of National Wildlife Recreation Areas is a new idea and if enacted will be a landmark achievement. It requires new thinking, pioneer legislation, creative planning and imaginative implementation and administration. Seldom do we have such an opportunity to implement a new effort in natural resource management that so directly concerns the lives of millions of urbanized residents and such valuable wildlife habitat.

We fully support the proposal to utilize land and water conservation funds to acquire entire wildlife refuge units instead of the acquisition of incidental tracts of recreation lands adjacent to existing national wildlife refuges. Traditionally, the duck hunter, through the purchase

of duck stamps, has paid for the acquisition of our valuable national wildlife refuges which are enjoyed by the nonhunter tenfold. It is time to break that tradition and have the nonhunting user public contribute to their own enjoyment.

Furthermore, it is our belief that acquisition of entire wildlife refuge units was the original intent of Congress when the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act was passed in 1965 and which has now been reinforced by the U.S. Senate Interior Committee when it recently passed S. 327 which amends the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act. In line with those amendments, we suggest that S. 2097 be amended to provide for the 70-30 percent Federal-State ratio of matching funds so that the two bills are similar in that regard. This will help provide additional stimulation for the State and its political subdivisions to acquire and preserve the critical wildlife habitat in the river valley.

Senator MONDALE. We are going to do that.

Mr. CARPENTER. The National Wildlife Refuge Association is, however, equally interested in the long-term welfare of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge as its creation. Today there is a serious neglect of the refuge system. Except for a few individual refuges where special political interest has brought about some semblance of proper development, the refuge facilities, built largely by the CCC's in the 1930's are crumbling to ruin. Its responsibilities for wildlife management, environmental study, public recreation, and other uses have multiplied while the funding necessary to maintain and sustain these programs has diminished. It is our fear that the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge will never reach its full potential unless we can receive some assurance that it too will receive special congressional attention for its development and operation. We ask that the Minnesota delegation assure the Minnesota public that it will continue to show its concern for the Minnesota River Valley after the enactment of S. 2097 and that the refuge operating and development budget is sufficient to allow it to realize its potential as the national showcase of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The refuge association fully supports Senator Mondale's amendments to S. 2097 as he introduced them on October 28, 1975, but we suggest that the bill be further amended to delete certain portions recommended as national wildlife refuge.

From a refuge management standpoint we question the viability of the Townline unit, the Coleman Lake unit, and the Bloomington Ferry unit. Because of their size, lack of manageable boundaries, and accessibility, we suggest that these be joined together as a single refuge unit or be deleted as units of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and that the city of Bloomington manage these tracts as part of the National Wildlife Recreation Area. Several of these units are already contiguous to property owned by the city of Bloomington and it seems reasonable to make this adjustment in the plan.

We suggest that the bill be explicit as to which agency is to be responsible for the overall planning coordination. From our view, it seems logical to specifically name the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as the lead agency in the planning of the Wildlife Recreation Area and Wildlife Refuge, to pinpoint responsibility so that we can be

assured that the overall emphasis of public use on the proposed area remains of a wildlife-oriented nature and that the recreational use does not become the intensified type incompatible with wildlife.

We would also ask that there be a specific timetable in the bill for the acquisition of the wildlife refuge so that the Fish and Wildlife Service will be mandated to move rapidly toward its creation. I do not suggest that for the State and its political subdivisions as they are better able to utilize smaller tracts of land purchased over a longer period of time. A wildlife refuge, on the other hand, must be a complete unit before it can adequately serve wildlife. A 6-year time period for the acquisition of the refuge lands should be adequate.

As I stated in my September 22 testimony, I have visited most of the national wildlife refuges and am personally acquainted with at least 75 percent of the working group of refuge managers. A more dedicated, more conscientious, more hard-working group of professionals cannot be found anywhere; but distinctiveness, professionalism, pride, dedication, vigor, foresight, and integrity are vanishing from the refuge system because of the manner in which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is manipulating the system and its people in favor of other projects. It is losing its identity, it is losing its stewardship ethic, and, we predict, it will lose its value to this Nation unless Congress acts decisively and purposefully to recreate the system in terms of Senate bill 1268. We believe, Mr. Chairman, that without this type of reaffirmation of congressional intent, the refuge system will, in a few short years, cease to play a viable role in this Nation's conservation program. We urge you to enact S. 2097 to create the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area and Wildlife Refuge and to support S. 1268 legislation which will be equally important to the Minnesota Valley, its wildlife, and its people.

Senator Ford. Thank you very much.

Next is Nancy Sullivan.

STATEMENT OF NANCY SULLIVAN, CHAIRMAN, BURNSVILLE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

Ms. SULLIVAN. I have a statement here.

As chairman of the Burnsville Environmental Council, I am particularly proud to represent the council today in testifying before your committee. It was the Burnsville Environmental Council that first promoted the idea of establishing a National Wildlife Recreation Area in the lower Minnesota River Valley in 1973. Frustrated with our inability to stop the renewal of permits for the operation of two flood plain sanitary landfills, our council prepared a 34-page booklet which proposed the establishment of a National Wildlife Recreation Area on the lower Minnesota River. We sent the booklet to the President, the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of Interior, the Director and Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, our congressional delegation, the Governor and local officials. That booklet and the response of our Senators and Congressmen resulted in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service investigating the Minnesota Valley for its suitability as a National Wildlife Refuge.

Thanks to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, numerous citizens, and Senator Mondale, we are here today to testify on S. 2097 creating

a Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area. It is a satisfying moment for the Burnsville Environmental Council.

To a great many citizens of the Twin Cities metropolitan area, the lower Minnesota River is a principal feature of the regional landscape; it is a focal point; it provides natural beauty, open space, outdoor recreation, and most importantly, it is an outstanding area for wildlife.

Local citizens have recognized these values and have been working for years to stimulate interest in its preservation and wise management, but we also recognize that the complexity and scope of preserving and managing the lower Minnesota River flood plain is more than a municipal, county, regional, or even State level of Government can cope with. Currently there are some attempts to preserve portions of the flood plain, but the effort is haphazard and underfinanced. What is needed is congressional legislation that has the authority and financial capability to override and blanket the river valley with a totally coordinated approach to its preservation and suitable use. We believe that S. 2097 is the proper action to take.

While we are interested in preserving wildlife habitat and providing for nature recreation to people, the primary reason we support the establishment of the National Wildlife Recreation Area is that it is the most economical use of the flood plain from a taxpayer's viewpoint.

In the past two decades there have been five floods of major magnitude and as a result, measures have been instituted to protect existing structures from flood damage. However, of the protective measures taken in the 1965 flood, one-half failed and reportedly there was \$51½ million of flood damage.

Despite the continuing flood threat, some local municipalities, including Burnsville, have zoned their respective river flood plains as acceptable for commercial and industrial development. The result of this unbelievably bad land-use planning is more flood protection. Ultimately it is the taxpayer who pays exorbitantly for this flood plain management and he receives few benefits. We advocate a more reasonable flood plain management approach and believe that S. 2097 is the answer.

Nearly everyone recognizes the value of keeping the lower Minnesota River flood plain in an undeveloped natural condition, but man's greed is all powerful and in his quest for more, he erroneously assumes that developing open land means more profit and a better tax base. In reality, the development of flood plains, especially the Minnesota River flood plain, is more costly to the public—for protection and service costs far exceed the taxes that are generated.

Unfortunately, on the lower Minnesota River flood plain in Burnsville, the mistake has already been made and much of the land is committed to industry and commerce. The alternative for preservation of the remaining natural values in the valley is public acquisition.

A free and open natural river valley is something that will last from future generation to future generation and cannot be replaced. In addition, that same public expenditure for land acquisition would be made several times over for flood protection facilities or for flood damages if the flood plain were to become urbanized.

The lower Minnesota River flood plain, particularly Black Dog Lake, is a major natural resource in the city of Burnsville. The Burnsville Environmental Council recognizes this and therefore fully supports S. 1097 and Senator Mondale's amendments introduced on October 28, 1975. We love the lower Minnesota River and we want to maintain it in its natural state. The task of preserving it and managing it for wildlife and nature recreation is great, but if not undertaken, the loss of this nature resource will be even greater.

Senator Ford. Thank you very much.

Jim Ross, Minnesota Conservation Federation. Do you have a printed statement?

Mr. Ross. That has been turned in.

Senator Ford. This Resolution No. 7; is that it?

Mr. Ross. Yes, it is.

STATEMENT OF JIM ROSS, MINNESOTA CONSERVATION FEDERATION

Mr. Ross. I'm here representing the Minnesota Conservation Federation. Our organization is made up of about more than 10,000 people throughout the State who have been concerned about wise use of natural resources and conversation here for approximately 25 years. We are also the State affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation which you heard about from the regional director, Chuck Griffith, a moment ago.

I would just like to say that our members have been greatly concerned about the Minnesota River Valley, particularly the lower part, for a number of years and at our annual assembly of this year we passed a resolution which has been turned in for the hearing records in support of this bill.

Thank you very much.

Senator Ford. Fine. Thank you.

[The resolution follows:]

RESOLUTION No. 7

Whereas, interested citizens have requested through their United States Congressmen that a plan be prepared for acquiring land and developing a National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area in the lower Minnesota River Valley, and

Whereas, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior has prepared a plan which would provide for wildlife and waterfowl production and maintenance, open space, environmental education, recreational trails and natural flood control for 6600 acres of the Minnesota River Valley, and

Whereas the area is important for hunting, trapping, fishing and other outdoor recreational uses and

Whereas these uses are compatible with the goals of the Minnesota Conservation Federation and with the maintenance of the highest quality of this environment, and

Whereas efforts need to be made to protect the natural habitats for wildlife in the Minnesota River Valley, and

Whereas The Minnesota River is the second largest river in Minnesota and an important national resource, and

Whereas, the citizens have augmented this plan in proposed legislation by adding provisions for the creation of a National Recreation Area and requesting that the refuge consist of 9,540 acres, and

Whereas, legislation incorporating the U.S. Fish and Wildlife plan and citizen concepts to establish a National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area in the

Lower Minnesota River Valley was introduced in the U.S. Senate (Bill No. S. 2097) July 11, 1975 by Senators Mondale and Humphrey, and such legislation needs to be introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and enacted by the U.S. Congress: Now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Minnesota Conservation Federation at its Annual Assembly at Brainerd, Minnesota on this fourteenth day of September, 1975 does hereby urge that the proposed plan and legislative concept for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area is agreed with and recommended to the National Wildlife Federation and all its U.S. Divisions for their support to the Governor of the State of Minnesota for his support; to the Minnesota U.S. Congressional Delegation for their sponsorship of enabling legislation and to all congressmen for enactment.

Senator Ford. Mrs. Lykken.

STATEMENT OF HARRIET LYKKEN, NORTH STAR CHAPTER, SIERRA CLUB

Mrs. LYKKEN. I am Harriet Lykken. I'm representing the North Star Chapter of the Sierra Club.

While we also passed a resolution in support of this project, we were made aware of it last July when Tom Holcraft or Mike Crosher presented their slide show to our executive committee and the resolution really is just in support. It doesn't add anything to what has been said, so I will hand it in.

I will just say our North Star chapter was organized in 1967. We do have 2,500 members in the State of Minnesota. We have lobbied for many years in our State legislature to preserve wetlands and we feel this would be a major step in the kind of preservation that we hope to see.

Senator Ford. Thank you.

[The resolution follows:]

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PROPOSED CONCEPT OF THE MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Whereas Interested citizens have requested through their United States Congressmen and Senators that a plan be prepared for acquiring land and setting aside a National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area in the Lower Minnesota River Valley; and

Whereas The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior has prepared a plan which would provide for wildlife and waterfowl production and maintenance, preservation of open space, environmental education, recreational trails and natural flood control in the Lower Minnesota River Valley; and

Whereas These uses are compatible with the goals of the Sierra Club, and with the maintenance of the highest quality of this environment; and

Whereas Efforts need to be made to protect the natural habitats for wildlife in the Minnesota River Valley thereby protecting wildlife not only for the enjoyment of the people of Minnesota but also for the people of this Nation; and

Whereas The Minnesota River is the second largest river in Minnesota and an important national natural resource; and

Whereas Legislation to establish a National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area was introduced in the U.S. Senate (Bill No. 2097) on July 11, 1975, by Senators Humphrey and Mondale; and such legislation needs to be introduced in the U.S. House of Representative and enacted by Congress; and

Whereas The North Star Chapter of the Sierra Club is the Sierra Club Chapter having members throughout the state of Minnesota: Now therefore, be it

Resolved by the North Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, That the proposed plan for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area is

strongly endorsed and this Chapter recommends the plan to the Governor of the state of Minnesota for his support and to the United States Minnesota Congressional Delegation for their sponsorship of enabling legislation for enactment by the U.S. Congress.

Further resolved, That the North Star Chapter of the Sierra Club opposes any plan which would authorize use of motorbikes, snowmobiles or other motorized recreational vehicles within the proposed Refuge.

Passed and adopted this 23d day of July, 1975.

RICHARD N. FLINT,

Vice Chairman, North Star Chapter, Sierra Club.

Senator FORD. Is Howard Eidem here?

[No response.]

Senator FORD. What about Fritz Rahr?

**STATEMENT OF FRITZ RAHR, IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE,
BLOOMINGTON, MINN.**

Mr. RAHR. Senator Ford and Senator Mondale, thank you very much for permitting me to be here today. I am representing the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League and the Minneapolis Chapter of the Izaak Walton League.

The Izaak Walton League supports Senator Mondale's bill, S. 2097, and I will not read our statement as it has been submitted and another copy will be submitted.

Senator MONDALE. It will go in the record.

Mr. RAHR. Along with the statement I would like to comment on Senator Mondale's amendment, 1023. With regard to page 2, "Congress recognize the unique character of the Minnesota River Valley * * * and as an avenue for navigation consistent with prior congressional authority," after "authorization" I would like to see inserted "to mile 14.7," since this is the limits of the authorization for commercial navigation.

And further on in that, I would like to see, where it says "corridor linking heavily populated communities," I would like to see the word "heavily" struck.

Pertaining to roads and bridges, since 18-169 has been brought up, I will pursue it a little bit. There's never been any environmental impact statement prepared for this location, Federal or State, and prior to any land acquisitions for rights-of-way or anything of this sort there should be first an environmental impact statement prepared for this location or any other locations for new bridges.

In regards to dredge spoil material, on page 4, "engineers shall assist appropriate local authorities in the designation of sites for deposit of spoil material," after "appropriate local" we would like to see "and State authorities," since the State has some say-so about this.

Senator MONDALE. I think that is a mistake. It should have been in there because it's a State floodplain regulated matter now. That will be taken care of.

Mr. RAHR. Outside of this, the Izaak Walton League supports the amendment other than my comments on S.2097. Thank you very much.

Senator FORD. Thank you.

[The statement follows:]

STATEMENT OF FREDERICK W. RAHR, PRESIDENT, MINNEAPOLIS CHAPTER, IZAAK
WALTON LEAGUE

The Minneapolis Chapter of the Izaak Walton League would like to submit this as written testimony in support of the "*Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area*".

The reason I am here is a selfish one, for I feel a great need to try to protect what is left of the Minnesota River Valley. Not for just a few, but for all of the people and their children of the Metropolitan area for years to come to observe and to enjoy wildlife in their natural habitat.

The Minnesota River Valley in the area of question is a unique area closely related to the Metropolitan community. It is a wintering or yarding ground for about 500 to 700 deer due to its unique location and winter forage. Rice Lake and Fisher Lake is another unique area as it is a resting area for about 3,000 whistling swans, and many flights of geese in the spring and fall. Not counting the great blue heron rookery and common egrets and many other species of fur-bearing mammals and migratory birds.

In considering wildlife resources, we too often look at a list of species present in an area and then ask "How many of this or how many of that are present?" We even go to great lengths to determine "how many."

But the important element of wildlife management is *habitat*. For habitat determines the presence, the well-being and abundance of each species of wild animal. And each species has its own habitat requirements, dictated by nature, which determine whether or not that species will survive in a given area.

In identifying habitat, we should not be caught in the trap of looking at single elements within a given community. We should not look at deer habitat, for example, as a grove of trees, waterfowl habitat as a pond or lake, or songbird habitat as a patch of brush. Instead, we should look at the whole system and realize that we do not understand all that we see.

Wildlife habitat is a complex web of inter-relationships between soil, water, plants and other animals. We actually know very little of the relationships which exist in nature.

But we have demonstrated time and again that this relationship can be destroyed by interrupting only a part of the system. For example, when we fill part of a marsh to build a factory or sub-division, we change an entire plant community, interrupt the life processes of food organisms upon which fish or birds may depend and which in turn support other life. We usually don't know all of what happens but we eventually see that there are now fewer deer than before, the fish are gone, or birds don't sing anymore where they used to.

Looking at the lower Minnesota River Valley from a wildlifer's point of view, we can see an excellent remnant of diverse habitat types which support a great variety of wildlife: This life does not exist because of any single stretch of river, any single grove of trees, or any single wetland associated with the valley. But the whole system together constitutes a community of life worthy of our very best judgment in planning development for the valley, for we are planning the fate of this life system and determining whether it lives or dies.

The lower Minnesota River Valley is unique in that it is a relatively intact biological community right in the backyard of the Twin City metropolitan area. Ultimately, much of the value of the wildlife lies in our ability to appreciate it. By having the Minnesota River Valley so close, and yet unspoiled, we have the potential for a great deal of meaningful contact between man and nature.

The Izaak Walton League backs Senate Bill 2097 and Amendment #1023 with the exceptions below.

The Izaak Walton League respectfully submits this as testimony.

Under the bill S-2097, Amendment #1023, on Page 2 between lines 12 and 13 (b), after "prior Congressional authorization", insert "to mile 14.7" and after "corridor linking", strike "heavily"; after "roads and bridges", insert "with a positive State and Federal Environmental Impact statement". Under (e), "appropriate local authorities" insert after "local" and state.

Senator FORB. Les Blacklock, Audubon Society.

STATEMENT OF EDWARD M. BRIGHAM III

Mr. BRIGHAM. Les Blacklock is not here. He has submitted a statement and I will attempt to read it from the National Audubon Society.

Senator FORD. You will then be representing the Audubon Society?

Mr. BRIGHAM. Yes. I have a copy of the statement which I will simply comment on and summarize very briefly.

The National Audubon Society has for a long time supported the concept of a national wildlife refuge system and indeed was active in the 1920's in raising funds to purchase some of the national wildlife refuge lands in the valley.

While we are generally very pleased with the concept of the Humphrey-Mondale bill, we are concerned, as has already been expressed by Forrest Carpenter and Chuck Griffith and others this morning, with the setting into which a new national wildlife refuge would enter and that is the present Fish and Wildlife Service refuge system which apparently, as we see it, has been tragically deemphasized, understaffed, and underfunded for a long time and we are also concerned, as I go on to explain in the statement, about some of the policy matters within the Fish and Wildlife Service. While they would not be at issue on the new Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, they are in other parts of the country and that's reflective of some of the improper emphases of the refuge philosophy as it is being promulgated today.

So we are suggesting very strongly that the Fish and Wildlife Service refuge's house be put in order and this is a matter of I think the highest priority.

As I say, we support the concept. We support the proposal very definitely, but we would hate to see a marvelous new refuge enter what I think is a somewhat chaotic situation that has sort of lost track of the original purposes of the refuge system.

The rest is there and I won't take any more of your time, but we do thank you for the opportunity to present this.

Senator FORD. I might express again that the Commerce Committee is looking into the funding problem and I'm on your side very strongly. We are also looking at priorities within the refuge system. So if you have some advice to give me as a member of that committee as to the amount of funding or the priorities I would be delighted to have them, and you might talk with Forrest Carpenter who brought this point up earlier so you two get together and give me some of your comments. We are getting around to something else we are not here on today, but I think it all bears on the same problem. I appreciate it.

[The statement follows:]

STATEMENT OF EDWARD M. BRIGHAM, III, NORTH MIDWEST REPRESENTATIVE,
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for the invitation to testify on the matter of S. 2097 to create a Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The National Audubon Society has a long-standing interest in the National Wildlife Refuge system. The Society provided wardens for some of the first federal bird reservations which later became National Wildlife Refuges.

In the 1920's National Audubon and the Boone and Crockett Club raised funds to purchase initial land for the Sheldon Antelope Range in Nevada. We currently lease land, without compensation, to the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Interior for the Key Deer National Wildlife Refuge in Florida.

While we are generally pleased to see a proposal for a new National Wildlife Refuge, we have some serious concerns about the present condition of the Refuge System and its management by the Fish and Wildlife Service. The refuges have been so long neglected that the Service now estimates it would require \$170 million to fully develop the 373 refuges currently in the system.

Recently the Fish and Wildlife Service has been making plans to turn over certain refuges to the States. The excuse given is that there are insufficient funds to operate the refuges. But, where are the states going to find the money to operate the refuges? It is our understanding that the Service will still have to provide funds to the states for the refuges turned over to them, so what is to be gained?

Now, I realize that the Mondale-Humphrey Bill provides for LAWCON funding to establish the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (and we prefer this name and the concept it embodies over other names which are being applied to the proposal); but how will it be maintained over the years?

Unfortunately, problems with the refuge system go beyond lack of money and personnel. There are also some basic policy problems. In other words some of the refuges are not being managed for some species for which they were established to protect or enhance. A case in point is the J. Clark Salyer Refuge in North Dakota. In 1942 there were 1,000 prairie chickens on this refuge. In only eight years the number had dwindled to zero. Regrettable, but not at all surprising when one realizes that during that same period haying and grazing on the Salyer refuge increased from 6,900 acres to 20,830 acres. In 1972 more than two million acres on federal refuges were under lease for haying and grazing.

Mr. Chairman, I mention these facts only to point out that the Refuge System is underfunded and suffers from some fundamental policy errors. Putting the refuge house in order before making major additions to it may be something that the Congress will want to consider.

A Refuge with a wildlife interpretive center near a major metropolitan region is an exciting prospect—one which National Audubon can certainly support in principle. The National Audubon Society directly operates ten nature and environmental education centers from New England to California. It has been responsible for the planning of scores of others around this country and in other countries as well. So the Society has a reservoir of experience and expertise available on this subject.

To the critics of the proposal to establish a Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, we can only say that land in a refuge is never "lost." It is always there, which is more than sometimes can be said for other land these days. We see nothing in the Bill which would detract from other legitimate uses of the Minnesota River. Thank you.

Senator Ford. Mr. Kline.

STATEMENT OF JOHN KLINE, PROJECT DIRECTOR, URBAN COUNCIL ON MOBILITY

Mr. KLINE. I'm John Kline and I'm project director of the Urban Council on Mobility and I appreciate—

Senator Ford. You said Urban Council. Is that statewide?

Mr. KLINE. Urban Council on Mobility. It's a citizens-based organization concerned with our environment and the completion of some of our necessary transportation corridors and the efficient use of our natural resources such as gas and energy.

Senator Ford. Do you happen to have a copy of your statement?

Mr. KLINE. No, I don't have a prepared statement. I just received a copy of this meeting from Senator Mondale's office in the mail this morning. I called the Senator's office last Friday when I heard about this and they promptly mailed it, but the U.S. Postal Service isn't what it used to be.

At any rate, I live in Dakota County on the bluff of the Minnesota River and my home overlooks the valley and I and the group I represent support this bill, Senator.

We are concerned, though, with the potential for possible delays that could come as a result of this well-intentioned legislation if the verbiage in it isn't clearly defining the needs for our transportation crossings of the Minnesota River and that is Interstate 494 and the Cedar Avenue. These bridges have been studied for over 20 years. Most of the planning of the communities south of the metropolitan area has been predicated upon the completion of these bridges. The accident rates in our area due to the overcrowding of these bridges are 15 times higher than they are where we have adequate corridors.

We in Dakota County are seriously considering a request to have us put on the endangered species list.

Senator MONDALE. Those that travel the Cedar Avenue bridge are in danger whether they know it or not.

Mr. KLINE. I travel it almost daily and I'm reminded of my morning and evening prayers.

Senator FORD. Maybe there's some benefit from that.

Mr. KLINE. Among our group we have several clergymen.

Senator MONDALE. It's the most religious area in Minnesota?

Mr. KLINE. We are concerned about this, though. Oftentimes when a bill such as this comes up there are a small few who are the extreme groups in our society who would like to stop some of the necessary things for the function of our society and when given a bill which clearly doesn't define some of the needs of the greater parts of our society they use these as mischievous tools to cause further delays to these very necessary facilities.

My point here today is that we support this bill and we hope that verbiage in this bill can very clearly define that this bill will not encumber or further delay the completion of these roads.

Now the environmental impact statement on Cedar Avenue has already been completed and hearings have been held and we had 1,000 people turn out at that public hearing last December 3, speaking positively for the completion of that road and I think all of the environmental considerations were taken into account at that time and yet the people unanimously supported it. The environmental impact statement hearings on 494 are yet to be held and an impact statement is yet to be completed by the highway department, but it's our hope that this bill will not cause need for further delay in the development of those statements.

Senator MONDALE. I invite you to look at the proposed amendments.

Mr. KLINE. I did read those, Senator, and I'm not knowledgeable about legislative jargon. I don't know whether they are sufficient enough to give us that assurance. If you say they are, that's good enough for me.

Senator MONDALE. I'd be glad to have your reaction. It seems to me all that we can do in legislation like this is to make certain that the right to construct a bridge or other transportation remains. We cannot order the construction, if you know what I mean. That has traditionally been a State matter. There would be no way of passing a bill that I know of in the Congress because it would be considered interference with the traditional powers of the State.

What we did in those amendments was to try to make it clear that in no way did we intend this legislation to serve as a barrier for such things as Cedar Avenue Bridge.

Mr. KLINE. I'm just wondering how we could attend to this so that knowing this now I feel certain that there are certain restrictions that will be placed upon the highway department, the State agencies in relation to dealing with the development of the impact statement and our concerns are—

Senator MONDALE. Take the Cedar Avenue Bridge. As I understand it, those hearings are completed. It's over. The bridge will be built. There's no question about it, and probably built before the refuge will be established. So my amendments that I proposed aren't even necessary to that and I don't think they are necessary to any of the others, but in order to make it clear, absolutely clear, I'm putting it in that form. But if you have other suggestions I'd be glad to hear them.

Mr. KLINE. You're going to be back in 10 days?

Senator MONDALE. Right. I will be back in town Wednesday morning, but I'm going to be on the Today show bragging about Minnesota and I don't think we should argue about the Cedar Avenue Bridge on national television.

Mr. KLINE. I hardly think so, but if we have further comments in regard to this after study we would be glad to contact you.

Senator MONDALE. We would be glad to receive those.

I understand Otto Christenson of the Minnesota Recreation Park Association is here.

STATEMENT OF OTTO CHRISTENSEN, MINNESOTA RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Senator Ford and Senator Mondale.

As a member of the Minnesota Recreation and Park Association, a group of professional park and recreation administrators and board and commission chairpersons, we would like to go on record in favor of the proposed Minnesota Valley Refuge Area.

We do have a copy of our resolution here we'd like to enter for the record and if I may, I'd like to read it.

Senator FORD. It shall be entered in the record.

Mr. CHRISTENSEN [reading.]

Whereas a proposal for the wildlife, Minnesota Valley Wildlife Area is being submitted to the Congress of the United States encompassing up to 17,000 acres between Fort Snelling and Jordan; and

Whereas such a wildlife area in close proximity to a large metropolitan area involving several private and governmental subdivisions, providing a multiplicity of recreation opportunity is most unusual and is of statewide and national significance; now, be it hereby

Resolved, that the Minnesota Recreation and Park Association go on record in support of the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Area.

This was approved unanimously by our board on October 16, 1975.

Senator FORD. Fine. We appreciate that very much.

I think this concludes this group of witnesses. We sure do thank you and we appreciate your interest, concern, and the fine manner in which you presented your case today.

Now we will go to witnesses representing industry. We have Peter Jenkinson, John W. Lambert, Don Groem, Roy Haik.

Senator MONDALE. Mr. Roy Haik does not represent industry. I think he's technically representing the Lower Minnesota Valley Watershed District.

Senator FORD. Mr. Jenkinson, would you like to be first?

STATEMENT OF PETER JENKINSON, COUNSEL, CONTINENTAL GRAIN, SAVAGE, MINN.

Mr. JENKINSON. Senator Ford and Senator Mondale, I appreciate being here this morning.

My name is Peter Jenkinson and I appear here today representing the Continental Grain Co.

Continental Grain Co. is extremely concerned and interested in the National Wildlife Recreation area proposal because it currently owns property and operates a grain elevator on the lower Minnesota River in the city of Savage. This elevator has been in existence for the last 15 years.

Continental Grain Co. can generally support the idea of protection of certain wetland areas in the lower Minnesota River Valley, but it cannot support such proposals that would eliminate its existing terminal facilities, impair the existing and future operation of its terminal, and impair or prohibit the expansion of its terminal which would benefit the lower Minnesota River Valley, the metropolitan area, and the upper Midwest.

The current National Wildlife Recreation area legislation identifies approximately 17,000 acres of land for preservation and protection. The boundaries of this proposal as identified in previous promotional maps and drawings include the existing Continental Grain Co. property, and if I may, Senators, I have a map in front of me here showing the proposal and the yellow is outlining the current proposals for the wildlife area. The dark area here is Continental's property. You can see if I raise this overlay it's in this area and here's the city of Savage.

Senator MONDALE. As I understand it, that was a mistake. We have now corrected that. Does that satisfy your concerns?

Mr. JENKINSON. It's my understanding that we have been told by the Fish and Wildlife Service staff members that Continental property was never intended to be included in the proposal. Yet the maps that we have seen to date indicates those properties and I guess—

Senator MONDALE. When you finish here you might want to look at the map on the wall which I think shows the revised drawing. We had no intention of including your existing facilities and you might check that.

Senator FORD. I think the language in the bill excludes all lands in the city that have been zoned for industrial purposes. I think that language covers the whole spectrum.

Mr. JENKINSON. We appreciate that and I guess that we have been concerned about that and would like some assurances and we see some assurances are coming along.

Mr. OLSEN. I think, Senator, that one of the problems we have here is that the Corps of Engineers—the responsibility for navigation ends at our property line. Therefore, any time you refer to that you exclude our property.

Senator MONDALE. Let's be sure. We'll be certain that that is planned down to satisfy you.

Mr. JENKINSON. If I might just finish the statement, Senator, the future plans of Continental Grain Co. concerns the lower Minnesota

River Valley. Continental is presently exploring the feasibility of expanding its existing terminal operation so as to directly benefit the environment of the lower Minnesota River Valley. One of the pressing problems has been fleeting along the river and one of the proposals that Continental is considering is providing some off-river fleeting areas for the enhancement of the lower Minnesota.

Yes; Continental Grain can generally support the protection of certain wetlands in the lower Minnesota River Valley if it is not at the expense of Continental Grain and other river-dependent industry. For the proposed National Wildlife Recreation Area to come to fruition it should be based on the harmony of natural resource objectives and industry objectives. It should represent a true balance of the two, not just an implied balance.

I thank you for the opportunity to bring this matter to your attention and to ask for your consideration of these particular concerns and we look forward to working with the various agencies and groups upon implementation of this particular proposal.

May I also add, the gentleman to my right is Len Olsen from Continental Grain Co.

Senator MONDALE. I have no questions. We will contact you to make certain.

Senator FORD. We will make your concerns a matter of the record so we can change that language. My understanding is there was no intent here to include the Continental property. So this is one of the good things we have learned.

Mr. JENKINSON. We appreciate that and here again we are interested in the best plans possible that can be put together.

Senator FORD. We are for that, too. Thank you. It's good to see you people.

Mr. John W. Lambert, president, Twin City Barge & Towing Co.
[No response.]

Senator FORD. All right. We'll move on to Don Groem, executive vice president, Bloomington Chamber of Commerce.

STATEMENT OF DON GROEM, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, BLOOMINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr. GROEM. Senator Ford and Senator Mondale, I'm Don Groem, executive vice president of the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce. I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you and I, like the mayor, would like to also welcome you to Bloomington.

The position of the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce has been forwarded to the Senators' office along with members of our other congressional delegation people.

Our position is one of support for the proposal and we feel that the proposal will preserve the quality of the environment of the area affected as well as protect the habitat from further encroachment from outside areas. At the time we submitted our position our concern was the Cedar Avenue bridge. We are satisfied now that the amendments do take care of that particular area.

One of our other concerns still has to be the West Bloomington area and the possible transportation corridor at a later date. I don't know

how that's handled and I appreciate what you were saying this morning and may we make a request to the State to complete some plan before you actually finish up your planning of that particular area.

Senator MONDALE. This may bring to a head a lot of issues that have been dangling for a year.

Mr. GROEM. If you have ever been across those bridges, and I live out there, you know they are terrible. And I also appreciate some of the concerns of the environmental people because I support a lot of their concerns, too, but at the same time, people who do live on the other side, we look at energy conservation in the future, and maybe this type of thing will help that also.

I think also, like the people before us, we have to consider the barge movement traffic being very important for that area.

Thank you for the opportunity, and if we can be of any help in the future, please call on us.

Senator FORD. Thank you very much.

Roy, do you want to talk?

Senator MONDALE. We are very glad to have Mr. Haik here. He's a good attorney. I trained him.

Senator FORD. Do you have a copy of your statement?

STATEMENT OF ROY HAIK, LOWER MINNESOTA VALLEY WATERSHED DISTRICT

Mr. HAIK. I don't have a statement because I just got this last Friday. I really haven't had a chance to look at it, but Senators Ford and Mondale, I do wish to acknowledge that I worked with Senator Mondale and for him many years ago now, but I represent the watershed district, and I think it's important that we try to at least understand the problem that that district has.

It's a governmental unit of the State of Minnesota, and it's a political subdivision that has contractual responsibilities presently with the U.S. Government.

When this refuge bill was first proposed and was brought to the manager's attention, the immediate concern was how does this affect existing contractual obligations because we had already acquired and had a program over the last several years of acquiring open space and recreational lands in the river valley and had expended several hundred thousand dollars on acquisitions, primarily on the north side of the river which was not destined for industrial development, but yet was the site that would receive dredge material on intermittent occasions.

The district did participate in approximately a \$100,000 study on the flood plain, in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey, that defined the floodway limitations in the river valley with that Federal agency and the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Minnesota. The second problem that we have is that that floodway designation delineated areas that would be set aside and would be capable of being developed for river-oriented industrial uses.

Now, to the extent that there is a conflict between the two, the managers have had the position that having worked out the floodway delineation limitations with all the municipalities of the valley and

the U.S. Geological Survey and the Department of Natural Resources, that the bill ought to try to conform to those boundaries, and I understand from the Senator's response to one of the areas that we noted that that appears to be done. So that was one concern.

The other concern has to do with our continuing obligation to provide the local cooperation for spoil maintenance or disposal of dredge material. Now, the language in the bill—and I'm going to just leave these with the staff. I looked at the bill and have got some suggestions that I would like to at least ask you to consider to really clarify that problem because it's not solely a problem of acquiring sites for one time. It's an on going problem that we have for channel maintenance which involves disposal of dredge material, and under some of the proposals that are now being discussed by the Fish and Wildlife Service with the Corps of Army Engineers, there are going to be changes in the standards that we had originally understood would be the case when we entered into the contract with the U.S. Government to provide the items of open cooperation.

These costs are beyond our abilities, and so what I have tried to do in the amendment language I'm suggesting is delineate that it's not a one-time cost associated with the funds to acquire the sites, but it's a continual cost that might be part of the annual operation of the refuge to the extent that one of the refuge sites is within the navigation channel area that we're charged by law with maintaining.

Other than that, I just want to express those concerns. The managers have consistently viewed this as not being one of being for or against any legislation, but primarily to bring to your attention the problems that we have down there. We have had a good working relationship with the staff, and if there's any problems with them—but we think this is a minimum of what we should have in this bill.

Senator Ford. Right. We will work with you and consider your recommendations, and I assure you that you will have 100 percent cooperation.

Thank you very much, gentlemen.

The next group I'd like to have is: Carol McLean, Beverly Pederson, Theodore Pahl, James Kelley, Larry Thomford, Ann Robins, Theresa Krumb, Mary Alice Seal, and Elaine Mellott.

We'll start this group with Carol McLean, representing the League of Women Voters.

STATEMENT OF CAROL McLEAN, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Mrs. McLEAN. I'm Carol McLean. I represent the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. We are an organization of about 5,000 members representing communities throughout the State of Minnesota.

We have already submitted our statement, so I will not repeat any of the things that other people have mentioned. However, we do wish to emphasize several points in this which concern the effect of this bill on the flood plain.

We feel that by decreasing developmental pressure, it will enhance the flood plain's ability to handle water runoff, thereby decreasing the flood potential both up and down stream. Much of the land covered

in this proposal is in the ground-water recharge area, and we feel in the future there is predicted water shortage supplies for the metropolitan area, and it is wise to protect these water supplies at this time.

Another concern, the refuge will insure complete protection of the flood plain. This is a fragile area where development could result in irreversible damage; although Minnesota does have flood plain zoning laws, variances can be granted as the river passes through this four-county area; establishing a single set of ground rules lessens the chance of this happening.

We wholeheartedly support this legislation.

Senator MONDALE. You mentioned one point here about the historic significance of this valley. Minnesota really started in the Minnesota River Valley. I think it would be well in the shaping of the legislation to include the Minnesota Historical Society in developing the plan. I'm sure you've talked to them already, but we have one of the greatest historical societies in the country—and also Hennepin Historical Society, and Scott County has one, and Carver County has one. We'll bring them in, too.

[The statement follows:]

STATEMENT OF CAROL MCLEAN, CHAIRMAN, LAND USE COMMITTEE, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota supports the establishment of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area.

The Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area will provide a unique urban habitat for a variety of wildlife, including deer, beaver, fox, Canadian geese, etc. The urban setting of the area means convenient access for residents of the Twin Cities and surrounding suburbs. A refuge such as the proposal provides not only living space for wildlife but also a needed change of pace and perspective for busy metropolitanites.

Another related use is environmental education for both adults and children. Its proximity to the inner city could provide benefits to people who might have no other opportunity.

However, the League of Women Voters of Minnesota sees many other benefits provided by the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area. The refuge will insure complete protection of the flood plain, a fragile area where development could result in irreversible damage. Although Minnesota does have a flood plain zoning law, variances can be granted as the river passes through a four county area. Establishing a single set of ground rules lessens the chances of this happening.

By decreasing development pressure, the flood plains' ability to handle runoff is enhanced, thereby decreasing the flood potential both up and down stream.

Much of the land covered in the proposal is a groundwater recharge area. With shortages in the water supply of the Metropolitan Area predicted in the future, preservation of this supply becomes a necessity.

Historical preservation is an added feature of the proposal. Adjacent to the refuge are several important historical sites, including the Fort Snelling Restoration and the Minnesota Valley Restoration Project near Shakopee.

As the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area increases in size, the League of Women Voters of Minnesota sees an ever increasing need for wildlife and recreation areas such as this one to provide long term public benefits.

Senator FORD. Beverly Pederson, landowner, Bloomington.

STATEMENT OF BEVERLY PEDERSON, BLOOMINGTON, MINN.

Mrs. PEDERSON. I'm one of these Swedes that is one in name only. I married one.

Senator FORD. At least you had your choice.

Mrs. PEDERSON. Right. I'm speaking for both my husband, Brad Pederson, and myself. We own and operate a nursery garden center in Bloomington, and our land is part of the land that would be a part of the refuge. If I could just give a plug, it's Kidder Nursery, Bloomington's oldest retail business. That's on Cedar Avenue.

While we're not running a nursery, we are running a first-aid station for accident victims.

I looked out my east window this morning and saw a deer drinking from the stream that runs through our property. At one time we were able to look to the west and see deer running along the ridge at sunset. Now we look up at an apartment building. The land where I saw the deer this morning would be a part of the proposed national wildlife refuge. That land is being used for pasture for our sheep, to raise vegetables, to raise shrubs for our business, Kidder Nursery. I guess we really use and enjoy that land. We know that to preserve the beautiful river valley some of us are going to be asked to make sacrifices, but we are willing because we know that the refuge is the best use for our property. The need for speed in this matter is very obvious, the dream of some prosperous land developer coming along and making "an offer we can't refuse" is always a possibility. We urge the development of the refuge before this wonderful resource is gone forever.

Senator FORD. Before you're tempted?

Mrs. PEDERSON. Right.

Senator MONDALE. When this legislation passes, which we hope it will, we ought to dedicate it to those heroes up and down the river who didn't sell. Mr. Kelley told me what he's been through.

Mrs. PEDERSON. It's true. We have had offers in the past and a chance. We are happy with the nursery, and we want to stay there as long as we can, but it is a temptation.

Senator FORD. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF THEODORE PAHL, PROPERTY OWNER

Mr. PAHL. Well, I'm a property owner along the river up at Shakopee, and I have been to quite a few of these meetings, and one of the meetings they had my property in a yellow strip that that was supposed to be set aside, so later on maybe they wanted it and maybe they didn't, and in the meantime I would pay taxes all the while. Well, I paid \$235 when I bought the land, and now it's \$1,200. They haven't done one thing for me, not even one load of gravel. I've got to haul that myself, and I wasn't too happy about that. That is choice farmland and for an industrial site sometime. I know one man was looking at it for industrial, and I think this here Minnesota deal should be looked on like some of the other ones—like the TVA system and down in Florida in the Everglades. I was down there looking it over, and I couldn't see too much, so I hired an airboat and he took me around there and I saw less and they spent a lot of money there and a lot of these projects don't pan out when they get them done, and I would—I was just interested in what they're going to do about that yellow line.

Senator MONDALE. Well, we'll check on that with you and make certain that's right. We will be glad to work with you on that.

Senator FORD. We'll have somebody discuss it with you and be sure your property is clear and you have a clear understanding of where the boundary is, whether you're in the blue or yellow or white.

All right. James Kelley. Is he here today?

STATEMENT OF JAMES KELLEY, BLOOMINGTON, MINN.

Mr. KELLEY. I think you can hear me without the aid of the mike. I have been asked to come. I have lived in Bloomington for the last 43 years of my life, and my home is on the bluff overlooking Long Meadow Lake, and my grandsons and my daughter also live near me on this bluff, and we have enjoyed the beauty of the valley for all these years, and I like to shoot ducks. I have enjoyed shooting ducks in Long Meadow Lake, and we feel that the best possible use that could be made of the area under discussion is for a wildlife refuge, and we endorse the legislation very heartily.

Senator MONDALE. There's one of the heroes. He didn't sell.

Senator FORD. You can still shoot ducks this way, can't you?

Mr. KELLEY. But I would like to emphasize this, and we feel that the emphasis should be placed on the wildlife refuge more than the recreational that might be utilized in the area because we believe that if it's going to be a real wildlife refuge we've got to curtail some of the shooting and we're very willing to curtail that in order to have the refuge there.

Senator FORD. Fine. Thank you very much, Mr. Kelley.

Larry Thomforde?

VOICE. Mr. Thomforde is not here. His testimony has been submitted. [The letter follows:]

JOHN F. KENNEDY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL,
Bloomington, Minn., November 4, 1975.

Senator FORD,
Subcommittee on the Environment, Senate Commerce Committee,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR FORD: This letter concerns my wholehearted support for S. 2097, a bill to create a Minnesota River Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area.

Historically, the Minnesota River Valley was "home" for both human and wild animals. The shallow lakes and marshes provided ducks, geese, wild rice, and aquatic plant tubers for the human inhabitants. In addition, the river bottom timber provided fruits, nuts, and maple sap and the river added fish and turtles to human diets. Man has changed the Minnesota River Valley, although much of the original landscape still remains and is deserving of bill S. 2097 protection.

As a biology instructor at John F. Kennedy Senior High School in Bloomington, my students and I use the River Valley extensively for class projects and field trips. Our class projects include muskrat house counts, water quality studies, waterfowl census, duck banding, and fish surveys. I think that the proposed M.R.V. Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area would enhance my class activities and all of our biology teachers are looking forward to greater utilization of this area.

The M.R.V. may serve as the last large and continuous natural habitat in the Twin Cities area. This natural refuge stands in jeopardy of being lost to the increasing development of urbanization.

I urge you to strongly support bill S. 2097. I shall be monitoring the progress of the proposal and will look forward to continuing input.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE THOMFORDE,
Biology Instructor.

Senator Ford. Ann Robins. Ann is a high school student in Bloomington.

**STATEMENT OF ANN ROBINS, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT,
BLOOMINGTON, MINN.**

Miss ROBINS. I am a senior at Kennedy High School and I represent youth who are in favor of this bill and I'd like to point out that young people today are isolated in an increasingly industrialized society. We are trapped in a jungle of plastic, asphalt, and concrete. A valuable escape for metropolitan youth is the planned Minnesota River Valley Wildlife Refuge. When youth is able to find harmony with the natural environment they are more stable within themselves and more able to relate better to others. Physically, mentally, and emotionally, the refuge could prove a valuable resource to the youth of today.

Let's analyze the many benefits included in making the Minnesota River Valley into a wildlife refuge.

First, the refuge would provide a place of solitude, beauty, and peacefulness for a young person to go to get away from the hustle-bustle and find inner harmony—a chance to see the natural world as opposed to our manmade world.

And second, think of all the Minnesota River Valley provides educationally. Look at all the historical and geological significance it holds. This is why the Minnesota River Valley is such an ideal area for a wildlife refuge. Can you think of a more perfect setting for nature research projects, or experimental studies, or classroom field trips for kindergarten on up?

And think of all the values and respect the wildlife refuge would teach. Too often, having been raised in an urbanized society, youth lack appreciation and respect for nature and wildlife. The refuge could begin to develop the importance and respect of nature and wildlife in the individual's life.

Furthermore, few inner city children ever see wildlife in its natural habitat and the refuge could provide this new experience.

Third, this magnificent resource is just a short distance from thousands of people. Youth who do not ordinarily get the chance to travel into northern Minnesota for contact with nature and wildlife could now travel quickly, easily, and inexpensively to the refuge—an opportunity they regularly would miss.

Fourth, through youth programs at the refuge, youth can be spending time constructively; and finally, let's think about our future. As youth we are concerned about the future. All forms of wildlife are constantly being pushed from their natural habitat. Here, at our doorstep, is the chance to give animals and ourselves a sanctuary amid the noise and haste, while teaching youth today and those to come valuable lessons.

Let me prove our concern. During the 1974-75 fiscal school year, the students of Kennedy High School sent letters of complaint to Bloomington's Mayor Robert Benedict about the poor condition of our city parks. In May of 1975 students worked together in a spring downpour to clean up the parks and saved the city of Bloomington \$10,000 and 2,000 man-hours.

Thus, we are concerned. And I'd also like to present to you a petition of over 500 students in favor of the Minnesota Wildlife Refuge. If we don't draw the line here, where will it be drawn? What nature and wildlife will there be for us and our children to enjoy tomorrow? Why use the Minnesota River Valley, with its beautiful river, historical and geological significance, and wildlife for anything else but a beneficial wildlife refuge? I, representing the youth, ask for your support and encouragement of bill S. 2097 to preserve the Minnesota River Valley. I know it's been said before, but now let it be heard—let's draw the line here.

Thank you.

Senator FORD. Thank you very much, Ann.

[The letter follows:]

To Whom It May Concern:

We represent some of the youth in favor of the bill S. 2097, to save the Minnesota River Valley.

* * * * *

Young people today are isolated in an increasingly industrialized society. We are trapped in a jungle of plastic, asphalt, and concrete. We feel a valuable escape for metropolitan youth is the planned Minnesota River Valley Wildlife Refuge. When youths are able to find harmony with the natural environment, they are more stable within themselves and better able to relate meaningfully to others. Physically, mentally, and emotionally, the Refuge could prove a valuable resource to the youth of today.

The benefits for youth of this wildlife refuge would be as follows:

TO FIND ONESELF

The refuge would provide an atmosphere of solitude, beauty, and peacefulness that youth from an urbanized area could escape to, to find inner harmony.

EXTREMELY EDUCATIONAL

The refuge would provide numerous educational opportunities. It is an ideal setting for both classroom and individual nature research projects, experimental studies, and field trips. Other than biological aspects, the refuge has several historical and geological aspects that are excellent for study.

A BREAK FROM MATERIALISM

It would be advantageous for youth to explore the natural world as compared to our largely man-made world.

PROVIDES GOOD VALUES AND TEACHES RESPECT

Too often, having been raised in an urbanized society, youths lack an appreciation and respect for nature and wildlife. A refuge would provide development of this respect and eventually nature and wildlife would gain importance in the individual's life.

NEW EXPERIENCE

Few inner city children ever see a raccoon, fox, or deer in its natural habitat. The refuge would provide this super opportunity.

WILDLIFE JOBS

There would be contact with wildlife naturalists and other careers and jobs that are only present in an open nature center, not in the city.

EASILY REACHED

This magnificent resource is just a short distance from thousands of people. The bus lines run close to the river providing transportation for youth from the

slum areas of the inner city. Youths who would not ordinarily get the chance to travel into Northern Minnesota for contact with nature and wildlife could now travel easily, quickly, and cheaply to the refuge. This is a chance they would regularly miss.

CONSTRUCTIVE YOUTH PROGRAMS

Through youth programs at the refuge, youths can be spending time constructively. Programs could range from proper usage of firearms to helping clean up the Refuge. These programs would help keep youths involved in their community.

UNIQUE NATURAL RESOURCE

The Minnesota River is unique in that it is in the midst of an urban area—which will provide an opportunity for inner city youths to view nature in its natural state.

FAMILY OUTINGS

The refuge will provide an opportunity for families to enhance their relationships with each other and with nature.

EXERCISE—SPORTS

The refuge will provide a variety of athletic activities for youths to enjoy. It will also provide a recreational area for sports that are nature oriented.

THE FUTURE

We are also trying to express to you our concern for the future. All forms of wildlife are constantly being pushed from their natural habitat. Here at our doorstep we have the chance to give these animals and ourselves a sanctuary amid the noise and haste, while teaching youth today and those to come valuable lessons. If we do not draw the line here, where will we draw the line?

Think of the wonder instilled into a small child
At the sight of a wild animal sniffing the breeze,
At the sight of the brilliant colors and changes
Of the seasons,
By the smell of the trees and fresh air,
By the feel of soft earth underfoot
To one that knows only of pavement,
And the thought of a giant sheet of ice
Carving away
And leaving behind
This magnificent valley for us to behold today.

YOUTHS TODAY ARE CONCERNED!!

What nature and wildlife will there be for our children to enjoy in future years, or for us to enjoy today? Our interest can be seen basically in two actions on our part. Last year, the students of Kennedy High School joined to send letters of concern for the poor conditions of our city parks to Bloomington's mayor, Robert Benedict in May of 1975. Students worked together in a spring downpour to collect garbage and to save the City of Bloomington over \$10,000 and 2,000 man-hours. Also, we would like to present a petition of over 500 students in support of this bill. We, representing the youth, ask for your support and encouragement of Bill S. 2097 to preserve the Minnesota River Valley. Let's draw the line here.

Prepared and written by:

JO LYNCH
JUDY ORCUTT
PAM SEAL
CINDY HAERLE
DIANE JACOBSON
LINDA LARSON
ANN ROBINS

Senator FORD. Theresa Krumm is a junior high school student.

**STATEMENT OF THERESA KRUMM, JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT,
BLOOMINGTON, MINN.**

Miss KRUMM. My name is Theresa Krumm and I'm representing the junior high student body of Bloomington. The statement will be submitted and I would like to have it put in the record.

Senator FORD. It certainly may and I was real pleased that you addressed it to me.

Miss KRUMM. In addition, I have something else I would like to present.

Senator FORD. You may proceed.

Miss KRUMM. The following information is based on the book, "The Lorax," by Dr. Suess. I feel that this book holds a story of the Minnesota River Valley's future and present. If it is not saved and made into a refuge area we feel that this is how it will be in the future. The air will be thick and sour with smog. No more animals will live there because the land would no longer be able to support their needs. The fish will be gone from the waters. The geese and swans will be gone forever from their nests, never to be seen or heard of again.

As we see the area now the air is still sweet smelling and clean, the animals still roam the land where there is still food and shelter in great abundance. The Canadian geese can be heard as they are seen flying over the area in their V-shaped flocks during the migratory season. The variety and the beauty of the trees in the different seasons is something spectacular to behold to any real human being. By filling it in you are not only destroying a part of wildlife but also a large part of yourselves. Bit by bit the industries will also demolish and ruin the supporting factor of the animals in this area. Therefore the animals are forced to abandon the area. The river so polluted with the gluppity-glupp and the leftover goo created by you, it is killing the fish by one's and two's.

The industries will get bigger and bigger until not a thing is left.

We think that it is sad that there are people in this world who believe they will benefit from the destruction of a perfect wildlife habitat of which there are very few remaining.

Our desperate plea is to save the Minnesota River Valley while we are still able.

Senator FORD. Thank you very much. I'm impressed with the students' papers here today.

[The letter follows:]

NOVEMBER 6, 1975.

Dear Senator WENDELL FORD: What you are about to read are the feelings of the Oak Grove Junior High student body.

We believe that these refuge areas can be used for educational purposes. This area can be used for field trips in geology and history and for informational sources in nature studies. We feel that when we go to these refuge areas that by being able to be alone we can be ourselves without having to conform to our social world. The refuge area is someplace to go that's not far away, and that we can have the feeling that we are in a secluded area.

The planned area holds many opportunities for outdoor sports such as: cross country skiing, hunting, biking, and many others.

We think it is sad that there are people who believe they will benefit from the destruction of a perfect wildlife habitat of which there are very few remaining.

Our desperate plea is to save the Minnesota River Valley while we're still able.

Sincerely yours,

TERESA KRUMM.
REBECCA SEAL.

Senator FORD. Marialice Seal.

STATEMENT OF MARIALICE F. SEAL, MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY CITIZENS COMMITTEE

Mrs. SEAL. I, too, have already submitted my written testimony. I just want to add my own special emphasis and my own special desperate plea that we save this perfectly beautiful area for these little ones.

Senator FORD. Fine. Thank you very much, and your statement will be made a part of the record.

[The letter follows:]

THE LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER
VALLEY CITIZENS COMMITTEE,
Bloomington, Minn. November 10, 1975.

Hon. WENDELL FORD,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Environment, Senate Commerce Committee, 5202
Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C.*

The Lower Minnesota River Valley Citizens Committee was formed to communicate the need for preservation of the lower Minnesota River Valley to interested citizens, agencies and organizations on a local and national basis. In the past five months the committee has, in conjunction with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service representatives conducted thirty informational meetings on S. 2097 in central Minnesota reaching hundreds of people. Support for S. 2097 comes from groups representing thousands of people, agencies and from the Governor of Minnesota, Wendell Anderson for the state. Innumerable meetings with agencies have been held. A random sample of Bloomington residents in October showed that 75% favor this bill. The committee favors S. 2097 and urges Senate action on it.

Of particular importance is that the bill does the following:

1. Designates LAWCON funds to meet financial commitments.
2. Protects the river's floodplain.
3. Provides for planning for, protection of and management of the last major wildlife habitat in the Twin Cities area.
4. Sets forth a nationally unique opportunity to provide an opportunity for local agencies to create and manage recreational lands in conjunction with National Wildlife Refuge units.

S 2097 acknowledges that the functioning of the Minnesota River floodplain deserves support. This is an economically sound approach to dealing with and stabilizing five million dollar expenditures for flood damage as in 1965 and 1969. A 1973 Department of Interior report "An Economic Analysis of Flood Damage Reduction Alternatives in the Minnesota River Basin" states that if continued urban change and encroachment are not curtailed on the flood plain such expenditures will increase by 2% a year.

Comments on Amendment No. 1023, 10-28-75:

1. The committee generally agrees with amendments (a), (b), and (c) and recommends their inclusion in S 2097 except to recommend deletion of the word "heavily" in line 4 of (b).

2. The committee feels that amendment (e) should deal with spoil sites already purchased and that LAWCON funds should not be used for spoil site purposes. Any cost of dredging or the acquisition of further spoil sites should be the responsibility of commercial and recreational boating users to enable cost accounting for such expenditures to be properly assigned.

3. The committee concurs with amendment (f).

Further, the committee recommends the following:

1. That the bill should specify that only a wildlife management easement is required on the Blackdog Lake unit.
2. That the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service be designated the lead agency to coordinate overall planning for the entire area in conjunction with state and local agencies.

Finally we state that S 2097 embodies the concepts and qualities of land use acknowledged by the people of this metropolitan area as necessary to their well being as well as that of a nationally significant resource.

The lower Minnesota River Valley Citizens Committee

MARIALICE F. SEAL,
Cochairman.

ELAINE MELLOTT,
Cochairman.

STATEMENT OF MARIALICE F. SEAL ON BEHALF OF THE LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER
VALLEY CITIZENS COMMITTEE

MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AND RECREATION AREA

The time is here. It does not take a forward looking person, or one with a great deal of foresight to see that the fragile balance of our world is increasingly jeopardized. Man, through his structure and his domestication of plants and animals is gradually overbalancing the scales that keep our spaceship habitable. Wild plant life and animals are being crowded out in favor of genetically fragile, highly bred domestic species. When the scales will tip too far is unknown. What we do know is that we must preserve what wildlife, and areas are left to us now, in the hopes that it will be enough.

The Lower Minnesota River Valley Flood Plain is a wild, natural area in a major metropolitan area. It's highest use is as a natural area and flood plain. It can be destroyed if steps are not taken immediately, but the price of it's destruction is too high. We cannot afford it. Serving it's natural function it will help minimize flood costs from now on, while serving all the people for generations to come.

I have spent many wonderful hours hiking, with girl scouts, in the valley. We have watched the barges, and waved at the bargemen. We have tried to see how many of us it took to encircle a great old tree with our arms; 4, 5, 6 of us. We have seen deer tracks, coon tracks, heard and watched the birds, counted muskrat houses, sat and listened to the racket that "silent" nature makes. I could go on for pages, but I'm sure you all have had a like experience somewhere. It is an experience that is everyone's right. It is our heritage. Having this refuge-recreation area here within the Twin Cities makes it possible for hundreds of thousands of people to have access to this, their heritage. It also allows the plants and animals, so necessary to us all, to survive, and share the world with us.

Please, help us preserve and protect this portion of our heritage. Protect it from ourselves and preserve it for our survival.

Senator FORD. Elaine Mellott, Minnesota River Valley Citizens Committee.

STATEMENT OF ELAINE MELLOTT, MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

Mrs. MELLOTT. Thank you so much, gentlemen, for coming to Minnesota to listen to the people to whom the valley means so much. We really appreciate the extraordinary effort you have made to conduct a field hearing.

I am cochairman of the Minnesota River Valley Citizens Committee, Senator Ford, and our committee has been going throughout the central part of the State conducting informational meetings on this bill.

We concur with its form and we urge that the Congress take action on it. Of particular importance to us is that it does use land and water conservation funds to get financial commitments. It does provide planning and management for the entire valley. It sets forth the unique opportunity for the local communities and local government agencies to participate with the refuge system. Also, it deals with the economic problems in the area and I would like to submit a report for the record called the economic analysis of flood damage reduction alternatives in the river basin. That contains a significant body of statistical information that will verify this approach is statistically sound or economically sound.

S. 2097 embodies the concepts and qualities that the citizens in this area wish to see occur with the Minnesota River Valley. The people

of our area already acknowledge that it is necessary to their well-being as well as to the Nation.

Thank you very much, sir.

Senator FORD. Thank you. We appreciate it very much.

This ends the list that was presented to the committee.

Senator MONDALE. I just wanted to thank each of you for the testimony, but especially I want to thank Ann Robins and Theresa Krumm, and I'm going to take your statements and the signatures of the students and in my report on these hearings in the U.S. Senate. I'm going to include this statement and the names of all the signers in the Congressional Record and let them know how you feel about it and the special interest that young people have because after all, to most of us, we can live or die without that, but it's your generation that will either have it or not have it, depending on whether this bill passes, and I think the special care that you went to to speak intelligently and carefully means an awful lot to us.

It was Marie Montessori who said that adults should be organized not for themselves but for their children. I think you helped us understand that today. Thank you very much.

Senator FORD. In order not to preclude anyone, would anyone else like to make a comment? We'd be glad to hear them and make it part of the record. We've got about 20 minutes left and we'd like to hold the testimony within that period of time since we will have to be moving on at 12:30. So will you give your name to the record and come around over here to the microphone, please.

STATEMENT OF MARIE KLAVESTAD, STAGE COACH MUSEUM, HIGHWAY 101

Mrs. KLAVESTAD. I'm Marie Klavestad and my husband is Osborne Klavestad. We have the Stage Coach Museum on Highway 101 right by the river, a stone's throw from the river and the one thing that hasn't been brought up at this meeting at all is the protection of our wildlife that you're talking about. I'm sure you have seen this picture. I'd like to show you that we had the biggest fight in 1973 with the pollution factory right across the road from this river here and it is toxic acid and I have gone out and got 300 signers and I could have had more if I had time and we are fighting this pollution. The people are sick around here. The factory is right next door, and I don't think that this is going to help the wildlife here that we have here because all your animals are not going to live and it's only a stone's throw across the river, and I think that has to be brought up first in order to get rid of that pollution factory by closing it down. They have promised us since 1965 to do things and they haven't done a thing and in order to have wildlife we have to get rid of this toxic acid. The meteorologists say it travels for 15 miles and you could imagine what that's going to do to the wildlife that we have right here and that factory does not belong in this area where all the people are and I think that should be brought out first before you ever think of wildlife and I think it would be a wonderful place for wildlife because you can see it all right by the river.

Senator FORD. Your problem is there is a fallout from a stack or is it water pollution?

Mrs. KLAVESTAD. It's water. The factory next door has taken a water test and it's running over into its land and he's gotten a test of it and it will be going down to the river and the animals wouldn't be able to drink the water out of the river and it's a very dangerous thing. Many people are sick there and they say cancer is 80 or 90 percent. I got cancer from it. My husband can't breathe from it and he's never smoked or drank in his life, and all the people there are getting sick from that. So there's a toxic acid that is coming out of those stacks and I think it should be taken out of there.

Senator FORD. This is something that we will have to get into.

Senator MONDALE. We talked to this lady before the hearing and we had this information. I will take this up with Mr. Ulbrich who's the head of the administration.

Mrs. KLAVESTAD. I've been to that meeting.

Senator MONDALE. I'll go see him.

Mrs. KLAVESTAD. I think that's the first thing for our wildlife to live, as well as people.

Senator MONDALE. People should live, too.

Mrs. KLAVESTAD. People should live as well as the animals.

Senator FORD. Do we have others who would like to make statements? We don't mean to cut you off, but we're trying to get to those we have missed.

STATEMENT OF PAT TUETTAR, BLOOMINGTON, MINN.

Mrs. TUETTAR. I'm Pat Tuettar of Bloomington. I'm also chairman of the park commission here in Bloomington. I wish to speak to the amendment 1023 in regard to that section on page 4, section 3, regarding the monies that will be given to the municipalities.

I would like to recommend that this amendment be more specific perhaps in giving direction to the areas affected, that the municipalities use these funds not to build another municipal building or duck pond but I would like to see them used and applied to the areas that are supportive of parks and recreation.

Locally here in Bloomington it would be more appropriate if these monies would be used to support a park police or park ranger system. I would also like to have the historical society have input into this.

Senator FORD. That's one thing that's been brought out that's very important. I think Senator Mondale is very interested in that.

Do we have any others that would like to speak?

STATEMENT OF CECIL PETERSON, EDEN PRAIRIE, MINN.

Mr. PETERSON. My name is Cecil Peterson and I live in Eden Prairie. I think the preservation of the wildlife and the testimony that we S. 2097 as a taxpayer of Eden Prairie.

I feel that it's a very difficult time for a taxpayer of Minnesota and the United States—it's a very difficult time economically right now to be pursuing and financing such a project as what we're talking about here. I have seen some figures as to how much this is going to cost and how many acres will be reduced from the tax rolls and so on

and I do feel that these figures—some of them are low. In other words, some of the purchase figures from what I could see are low.

Eden Prairie, for example, for a similar park area is paying in the neighborhood of \$14,000 an acre and I'm not sure which figures have been taken or anything like that, but as a taxpayer I am very concerned about this.

I think the preservation of the wildlife and the testimony that we have had today—I think these are concerns of all of us and very real concerns. I think that maintenance of this area is going to be another problem. As I understand you gentlemen, if you've taken a look at the area already or you may have the opportunity to, you will see how extensive this area is. I could take you on a drive of just my own farm in the area and it would take more than the rest of the afternoon and you would not have seen it all, and I question how much the maintenance is going to be in terms of cost to we, the taxpayers.

I also am concerned about—in lieu of tax payments, we heard testimony today from a gentleman from Burnsville in talking figures in excess of \$200 million, and I'm concerned about these in lieu of tax payments.

The educational aspect of the valley and preservation of wildlife and preserving its natural state, these are beautiful things and I feel that one of the best ways and certainly the most economical way to do this is for this land, much of it—I won't say all of it—but areas of it to remain in the hands of the private owner, the taxpayer and the citizen of the given areas. I'm a third generation on this property and I'm not looking forward to the dream of a development offer. This is not one of my dreams.

My dream is to preserve it as it is, as a wildlife area. I personally planted over 100 acres of winter wheat this past fall only just to feed wildlife and I think some of these concerns—I'm not just the only one. There are many other landowners in the area. I have had a number of students, young people, as we heard testify today—I have had schools that would come out and I would take them on a tour of the valley and also of the farm and also of the agriculture as it fits into this whole picture of a suburban area that we are losing, and I think it's important for these young people.

Senator FORD. Let me ask you a question. You're rambling on pretty good. You have covered a pretty good shoreline here with your statement, but isn't what we're trying to do in this bill exactly what you're saying you are trying to preserve? One lady said she hoped this bill would pass before they got this tempting offer and they give it to a commercial developer and you're saying the same thing, and yet you have questions about it.

You, as an individual, may do it, but others may get that tempting offer, even from this testimony today.

Mr. PETERSON. That's right, Mr. Chairman. I believe that to be true. I guess I could sum it up by saying that maybe for the time being the state that it's in except for maybe one or two special concerns where the loss is more real rather than the whole general area—I don't believe that I, as a taxpayer, at this time with belt tightening can afford this.

Senator FORD. Thank you very much.

Do we have anyone else who would like to make a statement?

STATEMENT OF KELLY O'NEIL, EAST BLOOMINGTON, MINN.

Mr. O'NEIL. Senators Ford and Mondale, I hadn't planned on saying anything this morning, but in light of the preceding testimony I think perhaps it would be proper at this time to do so.

Senator FORD. Do you represent any group?

Mr. O'NEIL. No, I don't. I live in East Bloomington, Minn.

Just very briefly, I really wish I were a poet and that I might implore you with poetic verse or an artist so that I might paint for you the impression the lower river valley has had on me. Unfortunately, I'm not a Henry David Thoreau or a June Laur or Aldo Leopold and will never be able to communicate to you the entire meaning this valley has for me, the effect which it has had and will forever have on my life.

In conclusion and also in support of this bill, Henry David Thoreau once wrote, and I quote:

We need the tonic of wilderness to wade sometimes in marshes where the bittersweet and the meadowlark lurk and hear the booming of the snipe, to smell the whispering sage where only some wilder and more solitary fowl builds her nest—(reading)—We need to witness our own limits transgressed and some life pasturing freely where we never wandered.

No one is more in favor of this bill than I, but I really would like to see our decided priority placed on the preservation of wild-life and this entire area as a natural resource.

Senator FORD. Thank you. Any others?

STATEMENT OF ROBERT DANA, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Mr. DANA. I just have a question. I'm Robert Dana from Minneapolis. I have been coming down to the valley for several years since I moved to Minnesota and am very much in favor of this proposal. I have seen noise in the newspapers over a period of time about it and just through negligence on my part haven't taken a more active role, but I noticed from your map of the area what I think is the most biologically interesting and significant area that I know of in the valley is not included in these boundaries, and I wondered what I might do to suggest the inclusion of this area, whom I might speak to about it?

Senator FORD. This is what we're having a hearing for. Can you describe it?

Mr. DANA. It's up here [indicating].

Senator FORD. Can you give it to us in writing?

Mr. DANA. I can easily provide a written statement. It's right where Cedar Avenue rises up from out of the valley before it comes to where that railroad track is crossing the thing on both sides of Cedar Avenue above the railroad track and on one side below in an area called Nichols Meadow on the map.

The botany department used to take us on field trips there. There's quite a collection of plants and insects. My own interest is insects, but it's a hanging bog and there aren't many in the State that I know of and it also has a number of trout streams in there and many people come there and fish and catch brown trout or speckled trout, and I don't know what the highway department's proposals are for running

a highway through there when they improve that, but I would certainly like to see some of that area included if possible. I noticed Eagan was not included and I thought Eagan should be.

Senator MONDALE. Maybe we could ask Mr. Kirchner to respond.

Mr. KIRCHNER. Most of that land has been acquired by the State under the State trail system. They have acquired Fort Snelling State Park and almost all of it down through Cedar is under public ownership.

Mr. DANA. There are presently signs up offering it for sale for industrial development.

Mr. KIRCHNER. That would be close to the road.

Mr. DANA. It might be a quarter of a mile either way.

Mr. KIRCHNER. That's why the flood plain in Eagan was not included, because the State is acquiring or has acquired some of it, but that particular portion of it I don't know about.

Mr. DANA. Is there any way I can find out the details about this particular spot of land so I can find out what its status is?

Senator MONDALE. Maybe you could get together with Mr. Kirchner right after the hearing and talk about it and by all means write us.

VOICE. I was chairman of this Eagan Town Board from 1963 to 1973 for 9 years and all the zoning in Eagan only went up to the railroad tracks. We did no zoning and we made no provision for any development in that river bottom. It's always been my understanding that Fort Snelling State Park was going to continue down to Cedar and this bill you have would take over from that, but that area is subjected to flooding almost every year and it would be foolhardy on the part of any community to consider any kind of development in that flood plain at all.

So I can just say for as long as I can remember and the comprehensive plans right now provide for no industrial development on the river side of those railroad tracks.

Mr. DANA. This is on the upper land side of the railroad tracks.

VOICE. On the upper land side there's a regional sewer plant in there and there are really no bogs on this side of the tracks that I'm aware of. I have walked those tracks and I'm pretty much aware of that area.

Senator MONDALE. Maybe we could take care of this and get the facts straightened out later.

Senator FORD. At least you've got two people here who are very knowledgeable about what you're talking about and maybe we can all help each other.

Are there any others?

STATEMENT OF OSBORNE KLAVESTAD

Mr. KLAVESTAD. Senator Mondale and Senator Ford, I have a brief little thing about our historical valley. I'm Osborne Klavestad, the owner of the Stage Coach. Savage and Four-mile House and Shakopee are a part of the refuge and we have the \$15 million Valley View Park right in this valley and all in line which is a great future attraction, and I approve very heartily of your wildlife and refuge for future generations. Thank you very much.

Senator MONDALE. I have visited the Stage Coach and we are delighted to have you here with us.

Senator FORD. Any other statements?

If not, I don't know whether Senator Mondale would like to have a closing statement or not. I would like to just say this. I appreciate the hospitality. I appreciate those who have come today to testify, both for and against, to express their personal views. I appreciate others who are here just to listen to become better informed and hopefully by this type of legislative approach where we come and let the people have an opportunity right at hand to express themselves we can go back to Washington and write better legislation—not have bigger Government, but better legislation—and if we could do that, I think it's real important.

I am grateful to have the opportunity to come to your wonderful State and I appreciate the opportunity to be with my colleague, Senator Mondale, and if you have any comments, fine. I want you to know, for a Kentucky boy, I have gone 3½ hours without smoking a cigarette and it's about to come to an end.

Senator MONDALE. I think I speak for everybody here when I thank Senator Ford for coming to Minnesota to hold these hearings.

It's quite a sacrifice. These are not his constituents. He doesn't have to come. But as soon as I asked him he immediately agreed to do so and as an influential and key member of the Commerce Committee I think today's hearing is an excellent record. We have heard from all points of views and I think you have made a great contribution to what we think is indeed a sacred responsibility to save this valley and do it in a way that's respectable of the many interests that converge upon it. So I thank you very much, Senator Ford, for being with us.

I want to also thank Jack Hemphill and the Fish and Wildlife Service. There have been some suggestions that the national program is either a threat or some of its concepts are in doubt, and that may be true—we must look at that, but I must say that its Director and its staff have performed magnificently and had it not been for them there would be no proposal, and I wish to say that and I wish to thank everyone else who testified and also, to any of you who have not testified but who have ideas, simply write us a letter and we will make it a part of the record, and it will be thoroughly reviewed by myself and staff as we prepare to develop this legislation.

I just want to make one point, and those of you who listened might have observed this. It's very hard to reconcile all differences. You're either going to have a bridge or you're not going to have a bridge. You can't say, "Well, let's have half a bridge." And not everybody can be totally satisfied. We want to hear all points of view and reconcile them as much as we can consistent with the scenery and the recreational and refuge qualities of that river and I have great sympathy for what our farmer friend over here said because I think if everybody behaved as he did there would be no need for this legislation. There was no need for it 50 years ago because it was largely unspoiled, beautiful valley that was not then under serious threat. But I have been through a lot of these fights and I don't like to fight, but I'm convinced that you only save them now through some kind of legislation because sometime, somewhere, someone is going to be responsive to the offer of money.

I'm a believer of money. That's why I believe in the free enterprise system. I think we tend to respond to the best bargain, but there are some interests that don't carry a commercial value but to all of us have a great value on which a dollar amount cannot be placed, and certainly the environment, the need for some chance to relax and to get away from the crowds, to see wildlife, to once again appreciate and enjoy history and to be a part of all the marvels that Mr. O'Neil referred to in his poetic statement, those cannot carry a price tag nor will they ever, and yet for all of us I think in many ways they are more important than all the rest.

So I ask you as we try to reconcile these differences to give us not only your help but your prayer because as far as I'm concerned we're going to pass this bill.

Senator Ford. Just one item for the committee's sake. If you have any additional comments or if some others would like to make comments on this hearing today, we will keep the record open for 10 days. We have to cut it off at a certain time, so for 10 days beyond today we will keep the record open and any statement you'd like to make will be made a part of the record.

Thank you.

[Whereupon, at 12:30 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

ADDITIONAL ARTICLES, LETTERS, AND STATEMENTS

EDEN PRAIRIE, MINN., *October 28, 1975.*

HON. WALTER F. MONDALE,
*U.S. Senate, 443 Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR MONDALE: The Eden Prairie City Council and the Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Commission, after thorough study of the concept of a Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area, has adopted a resolution supporting this concept.

Eden Prairie has been vitally concerned with the preservation of natural resources within our community. We have adopted a plan for community development protecting our resources, and have to-date acquired several of these resources for public benefit. We believe that the creation of a national wildlife recreation area in the Minnesota River Valley is consistent with this community position.

However, concerns which we wish to express to you with respect to the proposed legislation are as follows:

1. We urge that the "revenue sharing payment", made annually by the Fish and Wildlife Service to local governments where the areas exist, go to the City of Eden Prairie and the local School District rather than to Hennepin County. The City will have costs associated with assisting in managing, supervising, and protecting the area, and would like to be assured that the revenue sharing payment is "funneled down" to the local units of government bearing these costs.

2. We are concerned that the maintenance and supervision requirements for the area be well planned for. We feel that an urban wildlife recreation area will require more maintenance effort than some of the outstate areas because of the intensive use which it will no doubt receive from the residents of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area. We specifically are concerned and would like to have the use of snowmobiles prohibited. However, if they are to be permitted use, they should be of a limited use only after a thorough study is made of the impact upon wildlife in this area. We also urge that sufficient emphasis be given to supervision of these wildlife areas.

We look forward to participating with you in providing input into the management, planning, and operation of the facility with respect to these concerns and others.

We are pleased to see that the Federal Government has a proposal for preservation of the Minnesota River Valley Area. The scale of the resource and the scope of the project make Federal Involvement appropriate, rather than expecting local units of government to undertake such a large endeavor. We strongly support this action and look forward to the enactment of legislation making it a reality.

Sincerely,
Eden Prairie City Council

DAVID W. OSTERHOLT, *Mayor.*
SIDNEY PAULY, *Councilwoman.*
JOAN MEYERS, *Councilwoman.*
WOLFGANG PENZEL, *Councilman.*
BILLY BYE, *Councilman.*

KELLEY AND O'NEILL,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,
Saint Paul, Minn., November 5, 1975.

Hon. Senator WENDELL FORD,
Chairman, Commerce Committee, Environmental Subcommittee, 2106 Dirksen
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

Dear SENATOR: At the suggestion of the Honorable Walter F. Mondale, Junior Senator for the State of Minnesota, I am writing this letter to you in order that you may have some of the hisorical background of Long Meadow Lake. I am a resident of Bloomington, Minnesota and have been ever since the year 1933 when my wife Margaret and I built our home in which we now live at 2901 East Old Shakopee Road in that city. I am a lawyer by profession. I was admitted to the Bar of Minnesota in 1917 and except for the sojourn in the United States Army in World War I, I have been and now am actively engaged in the practice of law in the City of St. Paul, Minnesota.

It was in the early summer of 1932 that I had the first opportunity of realizing the beauty and charm of Long Meadow Lake. Mrs. Kelley and I were then living in St. Paul on Riverwood Place near St. Thomas College. Our only child, Cynthia, was four years old. We decided we wanted a home in the country. In looking around the area we discovered the old Garret VanNess farmstead at 2901 East Old Shakopee Road in the Village of Bloomington. We immediately fell in love with what we saw and decided then and there to look no further. Old Shakopee Road was then but a dirt road leading from the town of Shakopee in Scott County to and through the Fort Snelling Reservation and ending at Fort Snelling proper. Then it was the Village of Bloomington and in 1932 the population of the entire township did not exceed a thousand persons. It was a farming community exclusively. The majority of the farmers were market gardeners who would sell their products principally in the Minneapolis Farmer's Market. There were also a number of dairy and livestock farms in the area.

Garret VanNess had acquired his forty acres in 1875 from Franklin Steele, a former high-ranking U.S. Army officer who had been stationed at Fort Snelling after the Civil War. The Fort Snelling Reservation, prior to the Civil War, was a much larger area than it is now and evidently at the time the Federal Government decided to cut down the size of the reservation, General Steele was able to purchase a sizeable part of the west end of the reservation including, I am told, that portion of Long Meadow Lake east of Cedar Avenue.

The Long Meadow Gun Club is perhaps the oldest duck hunting club still existing in the state of Minnesota. It was incorporated under the laws of the state of Minnesota in the year 1883. The founders were men who lived in Minneapolis and were engaged in the grain business and were avid duck hunters. They were attracted to Long Meadow Lake because of the excellent wild fowl shooting that it provided in the early spring and fall when duck hunting was then permitted. Long Meadow Lake was properly named. One looking at the area from the bluff on the north side of the lake during the summertime would have difficulty in seeing any water in the area east of Cedar Avenue. The Lake is shallow and in the summer it is practically covered with a dense growth of green aquatic vegetation which waves in the summer winds as a sea of green lush grass. It is this vegetation that affords excellent cover and feed for all forms of wildlife. Wild fowl, particularly, not only linger in large flocks in the spring on their way north and in the fall on their way south, but many find the area a desirable place to nest and raise their young.

Mrs. Kelley and I purchased the VanNess farmstead from nine members of the Long Meadow Gun Club in October 1932. They had acquired the property from the VanNess estate in 1918. For many years prior thereto the Club had an agreement with VanNess that permitted the club members to use a driveway from the Old Shakopee Road through the VanNess property down the bluff road and terminating at the clubhouse. The club kept open house the year round and their caretaker and his wife resided therein. This house was a very substantial building, handsomely furnished with fifteen bedrooms and at least four bathrooms, a large dining room and clubroom with a large kitchen and living quarters for the caretaker and his wife. For years, immediately south of the clubhouse there was a sizeable stable wherein the members would stable their horses which they used to haul their carriages to and from

Minneapolis. This was the only means of transportation that the club members had prior to the coming of the automobile.

The record discloses that the Long Meadow Gun Club had a lease agreement with Garret VanNess wherein they paid him fifty dollars a year for the privilege of using his driveway through his property and to their clubhouse which was located on a knoll immediately to the west of the westerly boundary of the VanNess property. In addition they gave him the exclusive right to trap wild animals and to catch fish on Long Meadow Lake, "except that the club reserved the right to have the club members and their employees to fish for themselves". We are told that Garret VanNess was not much of a farmer but he was a very successful trapper, fisherman and guide and was able through this endeavor to eke out a good living for himself and his family. The lake has provided a wonderful environment for muskrats, particularly. I recall that one spring the then caretaker for the Club told me that seventy-five hundred dollars worth of muskrat hides had been harvested and sold in that year. My recollection is that this particular year followed a period when trapping had been prohibited for a couple of seasons.

When we made our purchase of the VanNess farmstead it was necessary that we continue to provide a roadway to the clubhouse. This was done by an arrangement with our neighbor, Hanson, immediately to the west of us. He also owned some eighty acres of Long Meadow Lake and leased the shooting rights thereon to the Long Meadow Gun Club. There was public access to the Hanson property from Old Shakopee Road and it was a comparatively simple matter for the Club to build a road east and west across our property below the bluff to the Hanson property and connect it to this public access road. At this time I was invited to become a member of the Long Meadow Gun Club and have continued my membership ever since.

At the northerly end of Long Meadow Lake there is an outlet known as Littles Creek that flows into the Minnesota River. Since the very early history of the Long Meadow Gun Club there has been a man-made dam on Littles Creek which has enabled the club to raise the water level of the lake in the fall for better shooting and to lower it in the spring to aid in the increased growth of aquatic vegetation. It is in the fall with a higher water level and the aid of Jack Frost that the area become truly a lake and not a meadow. From the beginning the Long Meadow Gun Club has never permitted wild fowl hunting in the open water of the lake. All of the shooting has been done from blinds that have been built on a point of land which extends almost across the lake from the east toward the west. There is room for about a dozen blinds based pretty much in a straight line from east to west. The members would have their breakfast at the clubhouse, draw for the blinds and then push off in their boats to the point where they would land and go to the blinds of their choice. In the late 40's the club acquired a right-of-way from Clay Cummings who for years had a dairy farm on 34th Avenue in Bloomington, the southerly border of which is now the center line of 80th street east of 34th Avenue. After acquiring this right-of-way the club abandoned the laborious practice of pushing their boats across Long Meadow Lake and drove their cars around the lake to the south side of the point.

For many years Rosa P. Vincent owned the land consisting of approximately 900 acres, all of which she leased to the Long Meadow Gun Club and which comprised the major part of their shooting and hunting grounds. If I have been informed correctly, she was an heir of Franklin Steele. Upon her death the Trustee of the Rosa P. Vincent estate continued to lease the property to the Club until the summer of 1941. At that time the trustee decided that it wanted to sell this property and some of the members of the club suggested that inasmuch as I owned the land adjoining the club that I buy it from the Trustee and lease the hunting rights to the club. At the time I was representing a Mr. Gust Hohag as his counsel in some protracted litigation and he informed me that he wished to acquire this property. He was an old time resident of Bloomington and also a duck hunter and I suggested to him that we buy it together and we did. We each acquired an undivided one-half interest. Upon his death Mrs. Kelley and I acquired his interest. Some years later I transferred our interest to me as trustee for a trust that had been created for the benefit of my daughter and my grandchildren. I as trustee continue to own the property. Meanwhile, the Long Meadow Gun Club has continued to lease the shooting rights on migratory wild fowl and their members continue to enjoy good duck hunting from this estate. Unfortunately the clubhouse was destroyed by fire in 1956.

While I have not personally hunted wild fowl east of Cedar Avenue along the Minnesota River Valley to Shakopee I know that similar conditions do exist along it in areas that have provided and continue to provide excellent wild fowl shooting.

Yours very truly,

JAMES E. KELLEY.

THE LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER
VALLEY CITIZENS COMMITTEE,
Bloomington, Minn., November 6, 1975.

HON. WENDELL FORD,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Environment, Senate Commerce Committee, 5202
Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR FORD: Enclosed is information representative of The Lower Minnesota River Valley Citizens Committee's activity in support of S2097 as introduced July 11, 1975, by Senators Walter F. Mondale and Hubert H. Humphrey. These materials consist of the following:¹

S2097—A Historical Overview of Activity by the Lower Minnesota River Valley Citizens Committee—

(1) "Save The Lower Minnesota River", 1973, a pamphlet describing the goals and philosophy of the committee.

(2) A list of resolutions from supporting organizations and resolution examples from various groups.

(3) Examples of letters of support.

(4) Examples of congressional correspondence.

(5) Historical correspondence describing the development of S2097 and its concepts.

(6) Examples of local newspaper articles on S2097.

(7) An example bibliography of technical reports referenced by the committee.

Yours truly,

ELAINE M. MELLOTT,
Cochairman.

SHAKOPEE, MINN., November 6, 1975.

DEAR SENATOR FORD: I would like to explain my position on the S-2097 Environment Bill (Minnesota Valley National Wild Life Refuge and Recreation Area). I have farmed and paid taxes on my river land since 1956. During these past nineteen years of farming and raising a family, we have worked the land year after year the taxes have gone from \$235.00 to over \$1200.00 per year, which would show the value of the land has also increased.

If the above S-2097 Bill were to become law now, I would be most willing to settle for what I think market value is, based on my opinion along with outside appraisal. I do feel that it is not fair for me to have to pay taxes with a holding order on the land at this time of my life, when I'm going into full-time retirement with a limited income.

I do feel this is a very good cause and something should be done before it's too late, but this land along the river between Jordon and Fort Snelling shouldn't be the choice, because some should be used for industry, farming, and river works.

Yours truly,

THEODORE PAHL.

CITY OF BURNSVILLE,
BURNSVILLE, MINN., November 7, 1975.

Senator WENDELL FORD,
*Oxboro Community Library,
Bloomington, Minn.*

DEAR SENATOR FORD: The City of Burnsville supports Senator Mondale's proposal to create a Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area. However, we would like to point out that the potential cost to the citizens of Burnsville will be far in excess of the benefits which the individual citizens will receive over and above the benefits everyone will receive in the area.

We feel that this potential contribution in potential tax base loss is far greater than should be expected of the citizens of our community. We have pro-

¹ The attachments are in the committee files.

vided the information attached to this letter indicating what we feel is the potential cost to our community in taxes.

We further request that some means of compensation be provided prior to the establishment of the Wildlife Area in our community.

Sincerely yours,

PATRICK J. McINNIS,
Manager.

Northern States Power Company owns approximately 1,430 acres in Burnsville. The following information is based upon assumptions that the taking of a management Easement would reduce the existing land value 50% and would prohibit the development of the land. It is also assumed NSP would retain a 100 acre plant site and the 520 acres of Black Dog Lake, releasing 810 acres for development.

An 810 acre industrial park would be developed as follows:

	Acres
Gross Acreage.....	810
Less Streets (25 percent of total).....	202

Land available for development..... 608

The zoning of the property provides building area cannot exceed 50% of the land area. However, due to parking and aesthetic demands of industry, the building size is normally one-third of land area. Therefore building area would be 608 acres $\times \frac{1}{3} \times 43,560$ square feet = 8,828,160 square feet.

Therefore, the predicted market value of the completed development would be:

Building Value = 8,828,160 square feet $\times$ \$20.00.....	\$176, 563, 200. 00
Land Value = 608 acres $\times$ \$20,000.00.....	12, 160, 000. 00

Total \$188, 723, 200. 00

This development has not yet occurred and will not take place over night. It is assumed that if the land were available for development, it would start immediately and continue for 20 years until the area were completely developed. This would be an end tax loss of \$8,498,589.50 or projected \$424,929.48 per year.

The present land value (taxes payable 1975) is \$2,130,000,000, therefore a 50% loss would be \$1,065,000., or a tax loss of \$48,689.24.

It is also assumed the tax rates will increase 6% per year (mill rate limitation) and that the easement will be taken to affect the tax payable in 1977 (1976 assessment).

Tax year	Easement loss	Development loss	Total loss
1976.....	None	None	None
1977.....	\$48,689.24	\$424,929.48	\$473,618.72
1978.....	51,610.59	875,354.73	926,965.32
1979.....	54,707.23	1,352,805.49	1,407,512.72
1980.....	57,989.66	1,858,903.30	1,916,892.96
1981.....	61,469.04	2,395,366.98	2,456,836.02
1982.....	65,157.18	2,964,018.48	3,029,175.66
1983.....	69,066.61	3,566,789.07	3,635,855.68
1984.....	73,210.61	4,205,725.89	4,278,936.50
1985.....	77,603.25	4,882,998.93	4,960,602.18
1986.....	82,259.44	5,600,908.34	5,683,167.78
1987.....	87,195.01	6,361,892.32	6,449,087.33
1988.....	92,426.71	7,168,535.34	7,260,962.05
1989.....	97,972.31	8,023,576.94	8,121,549.25
1990.....	103,850.65	8,929,921.04	9,033,771.69
1991.....	110,081.69	9,890,645.78	10,000,727.47
1992.....	116,686.59	10,909,014.01	11,025,700.60
1993.....	123,687.79	11,998,484.33	12,112,172.12
1994.....	131,109.05	13,132,722.87	13,263,831.92
1995.....	138,975.60	14,345,615.72	14,484,591.32
1996.....	147,314.13	15,631,282.14	15,778,596.27
1997.....	156,152.98	16,994,088.50	17,150,241.48
1998.....	165,522.16	18,438,663.34	18,604,185.50
1999.....	175,453.49	19,969,912.62	20,145,366.11
2000.....	185,980.70	21,593,036.86	21,779,017.56
25-year total.....	2,474,171.71	211,505,192.50	213,979,364.21

Minneapolis, Minn., November 10, 1975.

Senator WENDELL FORD,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Environment, Senate Commerce Committee, 5202
Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR FORD: If man had invented the flood plain, he would have proclaimed himself a genius. Except under the extreme conditions of the rare super-flood, the floodplain absorbs flood water like a gigantic sponge, and releases it slowly, with little or no damage resulting from the high water.

But man did not invent the floodplain, and does not seem to be able to recognize why it is there or how it works. He builds where water has historically flowed over the plain, and then is appalled by the "disaster" if his buildings get wet. He covers the floodplain marsh with a landfill, and then can't understand why flood waters are so much deeper upstream from this restriction. Man ditches wetlands and straightens streams, getting water off the land as quickly as he can, rushing it downstream between high levees "protecting" the former flood plain, and yet can't understand why downstream floods are so often record-breakers.

There are few rivers, especially near urban centers, where a natural floodplain still exists. It is a wonder that substantial lengths of the Minnesota River Valley floodplain are still intact within the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area. The beauty, wildlife and educational value of this lovely valley are all *bonus*; they accompany the flood protection of this great "sponge."

There is an opportunity now to protect this unique area, and the arguments for its protection are so overwhelming they should result in that protection. The establishment of the *Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area* should be assured by a study of the area and of the convincing reasons for its preservation.

As a naturalist who has lived near the proposed refuge for twenty-two years, and has been a member of two metropolitan bodies considering proper use of this valley during four years of frequent meetings and many field trips, I feel qualified to offer these good reasons for its preservation:

1. The most obvious reason is that flood control is best accomplished by leaving a flood plain in its natural state. I joined many volunteers filling sandbags in a futile effort to keep the Carver County Courthouse and Chaska homes dry. If these buildings had not been built on the floodplain, there would have been no damage.

2. The valley is extremely rich in wildlife and floodplain vegetation. Well over 200 species of birds frequent its varied habitats each year. Among the 175 species I have seen here, I was fortunate enough to observe 17 rare bald eagles at one time below Flying Cloud Airport, and 106 common egrets and 72 great blue herons from one point on Rice Lake. I have either seen or recorded the presence of numerous whitetail deer, beavers, mink, coyotes, otters, bobcats, weasels and many more native mammals.

3. There are all too many bad uses of floodplain land in the valley, notably in Burnsville, where "grandfather clauses" have allowed landfill long after it was proven that such practice causes greater floods both upstream and downstream. The bad and the good are both here for floodplain study.

4. Recreational and educational uses of this magnificent valley will be possible during all times of the year except during high water. Enough trails and observation points can be established to satisfy the needs of many thousands of users, and yet large, wild areas can be set aside for wildlife to nest, den and "do their thing" without disturbance.

5. The valley contains a concentration of places important in Minnesota history. These would either border, or be within, the proposed facility. Think how exciting history can be, studied *on the site*, with the land still in its natural state, as it was when the historic events took place!

6. All of this is but minutes by car or school bus, and some of the finest of it is available by public transportation, to the two million people in the metropolitan area. This is an almost unique situation, and its value is inestimable.

If we do nothing, private owners will demand the right to "use" their land profitably, and destroy the beauty and wisdom of nature now present on the valley floor.

If we, you, the committee, encourage the establishment of The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area, you will be thanked by

educators, nature enthusiasts, and thousands of families who will be able to enjoy wholesome days together hiking, biking, picnicking and appreciating the beauty and wildlife of this very special place.

I have been asked to include the Christmas Bird Count of the Minnesota River Valley Audubon Club, of which I am a charter member, and to convey to you the wishes of its five hundred plus members, that this region so loved by us all, be preserved for the enjoyment of all people for all time to come.

Thank you for considering this statement.

LES BLACKLOCK,
Wildlife Photographer.

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGES IN
AMENDMENT No. 1023 TO S. 2097

In order to clearly insure that the bill for establishment of the Refuge will contain adequate provisions for mitigation of the impact of the refuge on existing public uses and contractual obligations, the following language is offered for consideration:

(c) The Secretary shall provide for the *maintenance of the navigation channel and for the Minnesota Valley Trail Corridor*, authorized by Minnesota Statute, 1969, Section 85.198, as an integral part of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area.

On page 4, strike lines 9, 10, 11 and 12 and insert the following: (e) The United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the United States Corps of Engineers shall assist appropriate local authorities in the *disposal of dredge material and/or in the designation of sites for deposit of material* so as to minimize the disruption of wildlife, scenic, and recreational values consistent with the need to ensure the continuation of navigation on the riverway. The Fish and Wildlife Service shall be authorized to expend not more than _____ per centum of the funds appropriated for acquisition *and operation* of the Refuge *to assist in the disposal of dredge material and/or in the purchase of alternative sites for deposit of material* as may be necessary outside the boundaries of the refuge and recreation area.

The foregoing changes will reflect the ongoing and continuing nature of the obligations imposed upon the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District by the United States Government at the time of the authorization of the nine-foot channel improvement project.

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PROPOSED CONCEPT OF THE MINNESOTA VALLEY
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AND RECREATION AREA

Whereas, interested citizens have requested through their United States Congressmen that a plan be prepared for acquiring land and developing a National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area in the Lower Minnesota River Valley; and

Whereas, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior has prepared a plan which would provide for wildlife and waterfowl production and maintenance, open space, environmental education, recreational trails and natural flood control for 6600 acres of the Minnesota River valley; and

Whereas, these uses are compatible with the goals of the Izaak Walton League and with the maintenance of the highest quality of this environment; and

Whereas, efforts need to be made to protect the natural habitats for wildlife in the Minnesota River Valley; and

Whereas, the citizens have augmented this plan in proposed legislation by adding provisions for the creation of a National Recreation Area and requesting that the refuge consist of 9,540 acres; and

Whereas, legislation incorporating the U.S. Fish & Wildlife plan and citizen concepts to establish a National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area in the lower Minnesota River valley was introduced in the U.S. Senate (Bill No. S. 2097) July 11, 1975 by Senators Mondale and Humphrey; and such legislation needs to be introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and enacted by the U.S. Congress.

Now therefore be it resolved by the Executive Committee of the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America that the proposed plan and legislative concept for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area is agreed with and recommended to the Izaak Walton League of America and all its U.S. Divisions for their support; to the Governor of the

State of Minnesota for his support; to the Minnesota U.S. Congressional Delegation for their sponsorship of enabling legislation; and to all congressmen for enactment.

Passed and adopted this twenty second day of August, 1975.

PAUL TOREN,
President, Izaak Walton League
of America, Minnesota Division.

CITY OF BURNSVILLE,
Burnsville, Minn., November 21, 1975.

Hon. WENDELL FORD,
Subcommittee on Environment, Senate
Commerce Committee, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR FORD: Pursuant to your request we are submitting detailed information relative to investments in public utilities that are in place at the Black Dog properties on the Minnesota River.

We have indicated the direct special assessments and the water and sewer connection charges and SAC charges which are the method by which the City recovers their in place utility costs. We have also indicated to you the direct tax loss what will result in the probable reduction in value of the property.

We thank you for your concern and the well being of the citizens of this community. If we can supply you with any additional information relative to this matter please let us know.

Yours truly,

GLEN F. NORTHRUP,
Planning Director.

Enclosure.

NOVEMBER 21, 1975.

The city of Burnsville will incur losses in three categories due to the taking of a Wildlife Management easement on the Northern States Power Company's property located in the Minnesota Flood Plain area of Burnsville. These three categories are:

1. Loss of Special Assessments for which expenses have already been incurred.
2. Loss of connection charges and SAC charges for which expenses have already been incurred.
3. An annual loss in tax revenues due to the reduction in land value caused by the taking of this easement.

The estimated amounts of these losses are as follows:

Special assessments:

Sanitary sewer trunk-----	\$156,000.00
Sanitary sewer lateral-----	103,364.69

Total -----	259,364.69
-------------	------------

Connection charges and SAC charges:

Water connection charges, 608 acres x \$500-----	304,000.00
Sewer connection charges, 8,828,160 sq. ft. of building area x \$.03619 -----	319,491.00
SAC charges, 8,828,160 sq. ft. of building area x \$.06111-----	539,489.00

Total -----	1,162,980.00
-------------	--------------

Loss of Tax Revenues

It is estimated the taking of this easement will reduce the assessed value of the NSP land \$800,000 which, at the existing mill rates, will result in the following shifts of tax burdens. It should be noted that these taxes are computed using the 1975 mill rates against the 1975 assessed valuation. There is a strong indication that one or both of these numbers could increase in future years therefore these figures are considered to be very conservative.

City of Burnsville-----	\$14,536
School District No. 191-----	48,064
Dakota County -----	15,536
Total -----	78,136

