

We would also like to express our appreciation to the committee for scheduling this hearing and for the tremendous support you have given to the Nation's reclamation program in the Missouri River Basin as well as throughout the West.

Authorization of the Garrison diversion unit in North Dakota by the 89th Congress was an historic step in the continued development of the basin's vast promise. We applaud the actions of this committee in moving the reclamation program forward as well as your leadership in the tremendously important area of conservation in general and comprehensive resource development.

In view of the fact, Mr. Chairman, that witnesses from the Federal agencies have already supplied a great amount of detailed information concerning the project, in the interest of time I will devote my statement to several other important points.

South Dakota lies in the heart of the Missouri River Basin and our people have long supported the comprehensive plan for the conservation, control, and use of its waters. For a number of citizens this has meant great personal sacrifice.

In order to protect the lives, property, and well-being of others living in downstream States from devastating floods, South Dakotans have given up 509,000 acres of land. This land was inundated by reservoirs created by the four Missouri River mainstem dams constructed within the State as a part of the basin program.

We recognize that this was necessary in order to provide flood protection for these States, to make possible navigation, to provide power generation from which so many of us have benefited, and for irrigation, pollution abatement, and municipal water supplies. To a large degree the water uses envisioned by the planners have been implemented. There is one notable and very important exception, however. The irrigation potential remains largely undeveloped.

It is the realization of a part of this potential for which we seek authorization today. We look to this as a means of replacing the economic loss resulting from lands which now lie beneath the great lakes of South Dakota.

It has been estimated by the Bureau of Reclamation that the annual income lost as a result of these lands being taken from production equals \$9,200,000 a year. This does not include an annual real estate, personal property, and States sales tax loss of \$600,000.

We also look upon the Oahe unit as an invaluable resource development program, a program which will give us the opportunity to put our precious water resources to greater use for the benefit of both South Dakota and the Nation as a whole.

Like other States in the drought-prone Great Plains region, South Dakota has long recognized the importance of water to our future.

In 1959, the 36th legislative assembly enacted the South Dakota Conservancy District Act to speed the development of this precious resource. This act provided a method for the effective development and utilization of the land and water resources of the State. It further provided the machinery whereby local people could organize conservancy subdistricts to assist them in the planning and development of desired water resources in a given area.

At the first opportunity after this enabling legislation became effective, the Oahe Conservancy Subdistrict came into being when, at the