

An irrigation project is doomed to failure if there is no market for the products produced. Sugar beets are grown on irrigation projects yet how can we compete with sugar selling \$1.45 per hundred (world market price)? Belle Fourche failed even with Government supporting the price, and those people were experienced irrigators. If any local farmers want irrigated land let them buy it at Belle Fourche where they advertised it for sale cheap.

We have trouble with the James River flooding our best land and the Government will do nothing to clear the channel as they say it is not economically feasible. This irrigation by itself is not economically sound so you add two minuses and come up with a plus which is screwy arithmetic as I see it. The only way they can get by is to take money from the generation of electricity.

Let them take the water to Texas then you would get the water generating three and four times the amount of electricity and ample water for navigation plus the irrigation for Texas farm lands which has a longer growing season and in the end we would probably get our river bottom land drained. By the way the Government is responsible for a lot of this flooding by building those dams into the James River to store water for Huron which should have been stored beside the river bed.

I will be unable to attend the meeting, so am sending this instead.

Sincerely,

PAUL A. PETERSON.

P.S. If the city residents want to vote for irrigation let them sign the contracts and pay for the cost of all this. Why should we lose our land? Cattle have also been suggested as a source of income and they are today losing \$46.00 on every steer sold on account of low prices.

NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE Co.,
Huron, S. Dak., April 21, 1967.

MEMBERS OF THE U.S. SENATE,
Subcommittee on Power and Water Resources of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, Washington, D.C.

GENTLEMEN: On behalf of my Company, Northwestern Public Service Company, Huron, South Dakota, I would like to file this letter of support of the proposed authorization of the first stage development plan for irrigation in Spink and Brown Counties, South Dakota.

I believe that it is especially urgent that your committee and Congress give early approval of this most important project here in South Dakota. The irrigation that will develop upon completion of the first stage of this irrigation project will greatly enhance the economic welfare of the people of South Dakota and will help to solve several problems that exist in our state and in our country. Economic studies demonstrate that even the first stage of development of this irrigation project will increase the total annual income for our farmers in Spink and Brown Counties by more than \$71 million per year. It will also have the additional important effect of providing new sources of tax revenues for our local and state governments. Local agencies of government are finding increasing needs for new sources of tax revenues and it is estimated that this project alone will provide additional taxes in these two counties of more than \$2½ million annually.

The Federal Treasury will also benefit because it has been estimated that the increased federal income tax paid by farmers in the irrigation district will amount to more than \$3½ million.

When the large multi-purpose dams were constructed on the Missouri River, it was clearly understood by the people of South Dakota that the major benefit for South Dakota would come from the ultimate irrigation development within our state. In return for this assurance, the people of South Dakota gave up hundreds of thousands of acres of our most productive land which subsequently has been inundated by the lakes created behind the dams. This valuable crop land is lost forever and with it the potential agricultural income for these lands. This terrific economic loss to our state can be partially replaced by speedy and thorough irrigation development in the James River Valley. This irrigation proposal has been studied and re-studied by the Bureau of Reclamation, and they find it to be completely economically feasible. This project is important to the people of South Dakota and in the very near future will be an important food supply source for the people of the world.