

member of a group that is of tremendous importance to the progress of our project, the Oahe Conservancy Subdistrict, and I am pleased to call Mr. Fred Holscher now to the witness stand.

He will be testifying much more fully later on in Washington, but he does have a brief statement that he has agreed to give to us today.

STATEMENT OF FRED H. HOLSCHER, FAULKTON, S. DAK., CHAIRMAN, OAHE CONSERVANCY SUBDISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. HOLSCHER. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Fred H. Holscher. I live in Faulkton, S. Dak., and am chairman of the board of directors of the Oahe Conservancy Subdistrict. I am a lifelong resident of South Dakota and since my boyhood have been engaged in farming in Faulk County.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the committee to our State and thank them for arranging to hold this hearing in South Dakota thereby enabling many of our citizens to participate and affording many more witnesses the opportunity to be heard than would otherwise have been the case had they been required to go to Washington. In order to allow the committee ample time to hear these local witnesses the subdistrict's testimony here today will be brief. In the interest of conserving time and with the committee's permission we would like to reserve our major presentation for the Washington hearing.

The testimony today will be concerning Senate bill 6 jointly introduced by both of South Dakota's able Senators, which would authorize for construction the first stage of the Oahe irrigation unit. On behalf of the Oahe Conservancy Subdistrict, I appear before this committee to respectfully ask your favorable consideration of this legislation.

The Oahe Conservancy Subdistrict was established at the 1960 general election when the voters within its boundaries approved its creation by an overwhelming favorable vote of 85.3 percent.

The subdistrict consists of 15½ counties in north-central South Dakota and provides a responsible government entity which represents all people within its boundaries in the planning and development of the area's water resources. This entity was given the authority to levy an ad valorem tax on all property within its boundaries and to contract for certain obligations and responsibilities in connection with the construction and operation of the Oahe irrigation unit and other water resource developments. The subdistrict contains approximately 22 percent of the State's land area and population.

In South Dakota an undependable moisture supply is a natural hazard every farmer must face. Every year this hazard confronts him with an uncertainty as to the production of forage crops, grain, and livestock pastures. Having farmed in South Dakota for over 40 years no one appreciates the seriousness of inadequate moisture better than I. The development of the multiple-purpose Oahe unit would provide this much-needed moisture to those lands proposed for irrigation by the project. This would result in increased, stabilized, and diversified agricultural production not only to the irrigator but to those whose farms surround the unit. This stable diversified agriculture which will be realized through irrigation will also help encourage the State's industrial development. The project will make water available for other purposes which will enhance the lives of many South Dakotans.