

To Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Subcommittee:

We favor expedient development of the Oahe Irrigation Project. This is a needed project to insure stable feed supplies and adequate water reserves for the area.

HAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,
JIM BEATTY.
GOTTFRIED, REIMAN.
TYLAN O. TITUS.
GEORGE MELKER, JR.
FREDDIE SCHMIDT.

This statement is in behalf of the following institutions:

The First National Bank of Miller
Hand County State Bank of Miller
Farmers Home Administration
The Federal Land Bank Office in Miller

The largest single limiting element of our local agricultural economy is lack of water. When moisture is inadequate, liquidation sales force prices lower, resulting in deficits concerning loan repayment, sometimes to the jeopardy of future credit. Our agricultural land is utilized to the point where lateral expansion for more total production is not possible; therefore, vertical expansion is necessary. We have the soil. We have the people with a need and a desire to live here and develop the possibilities that may be offered by the development and water dispersion of the Oahe Canal.

Decentralization of agricultural services, including technology, has been curtailed by the intermittent production and money flow caused by unstable moisture supply. If a stable water supply is available, the agricultural field would provide employment and opportunities for our increasing population right in our immediate area.

The City of Miller has been somewhat girdled by skepticism regarding results in case of an area drought. An improved water supply for the city would provide both attraction and contentment, which would stabilize values.

With irrigation, each acre would have over three times more average production, with the side benefits of a much increased money flow and increased prosperity. In short, a very favorable benefit to cost ratio.

President, the First National Bank of Miller.
S. HART.
President, Hand County State Bank of Miller.
JACK LYNASS,
Supervisor, Farmers Home Administration.
ROBERT R. ROBERTS,
Manager, the Federal Land Bank Office.

To Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Subcommittee:

We believe irrigation is a must for Hand County. The water from the reservoir will do this quite efficiently. The important thing is the stabilizing effect it will have on the entire farming and business community. Corn, alfalfa and cattle are our main crops. In July and August, when rain fall is scarce, irrigation water at this time would not only double but triple the yield of corn as well as give several cuttings of alfalfa. There are times, when a drought occurs, it is hard to get enough feed gathered to maintain a foundation herd of livestock through the winter or until grass starts to grow the next spring. This has happened to not only myself in the past but to scores of other farmers.

We believe that water brought into this area from the Oahe reservoir will be the greatest thing that could ever happen to insure a stable income to the farmer.

HAROLD E. CARR, President,
HAND COUNTY FARMERS' UNION.