

We respectfully urge your favorable consideration of immediate authorization of the Oahe Irrigation Unit.
Respectfully submitted,

JAMES LONG, *President.*

HURON LIONS INTERNATIONAL CLUB,

Huron, S. Dak., May 17, 1967.

Members of the U.S. Senate, Subcommittee on Power and Water Resources, of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee.

GENTLEMEN: The Huron Lions Club represents approximately 100 businessmen from Huron, South Dakota. The purpose of this organization is to provide leadership through service to build a better community and world.

Although the Oahe Irrigation Unit is located north of Huron, it will have a direct and significant effect on nearly all segments of the Huron community.

Irrigation development of the Oahe Unit will increase and stabilize agricultural production, farm income, and farm expenditures for the irrigation farmers, and for dryland farmers of the area who will have a nearby stable feed base and market for their livestock. The increased and stabilize farm production, income and expenditures will have a concomitant increase and stabilization effect on business and industry of the area. Irrigation development will also increase and stabilize rural population in Huron's trade area.

There is a distinct need for increased and stabilized agricultural production in this area to meet the increasing national and world demand for food and fiber products.

The vast majority of Huron's business and industrial interests are directly related to agriculture. Some examples are: Livestock sales rings; packing plants; livestock feeding lots; grain elevators; seed companies; farm machinery, automobile, and truck sales companies; and many others. Likewise, nearly all other retail, wholesale and service trade businesses in Huron are directly or indirectly dependent on farm income of the area for the major portion of their business.

Irrigation development of the Oahe Unit will increase the size and volume of business for business establishments in Huron and bring new business establishments and industries to Huron.

Increased business for Huron leads to increased population, and a larger tax base which in turn leads to improved education, recreation, religious, transportation and communication opportunities for the area.

This project will make Central South Dakota blossom into a much more fertile agricultural area than is now possible and will also remove forever the fears of returning to the days when this entire area became a huge Dust Bowl due to the lack of water. In the 1930's when the Dust Bowl conditions hit South Dakota, the main people hurt were the local residents; but in our modern economy, if the huge amount of food that is produced in this area at the present time was taken out of the market due to drought conditions, it would affect the price and supply of food in the entire United States.

Another important result of this project will be to make it economically feasible for the small farmer to remain in business. At the present time, the small farmer is moving from the farm to urban areas at an alarming rate. Once in the urban area, they are all too often unable to find work and are added to the growing list of unemployed.

For these reasons, the Huron Lions Club urges you to authorize construction of the Oahe Irrigation Project during this session of Congress.

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE W. CAREY, *President.*

OPTIMIST CLUB OF HURON, S. DAK.

May 9, 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: The Optimist Club of Huron, South Dakota is organized for the prime purpose of developing the youth of our community.

For this reason, we are extremely interested in the ultimate development of the Oahe Irrigation Unit in Brown and Spink Counties in South Dakota.

While this project may well have its greatest impact upon the two counties north of Huron, it will, in fact, stabilize the agriculture of the area immediately around Huron.