

on the whims of nature to supply us with adequate rainfall at the precise moment of need, but, rather though a program such as this, have the assurance of adequate moisture.

GSDA is proud of our State's heritage and most optimistic about our future. We respectfully request that the Congress and the President to act with great dispatch in approving and funding for this project development.

Senator McGOVERN. Thank you for your statement, Mr. Cady.

Mr. Richard Fisher, the next witness, is the president of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation.

STATEMENT OF RICHARD FISHER, PRESIDENT, SOUTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION AND NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Mr. FISHER. As members of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation and the National Wildlife Federation, we are concerned with proper uses of our natural resources. We feel that esthetic and recreational values should have every consideration along with other beneficial uses of water. Many of us have been active in the creation of the Oahe Conservancy Subdistrict and have helped in the planning of the Oahe irrigation unit.

The authorization of the Oahe irrigation unit is vital to the economy of the State of South Dakota and necessary to provide occupations for our well-educated young people so that we may keep them here to help form the future of South Dakota. We need their youth, creativeness, and ability in our communities and in our State government. This project will assure us of retaining at least some of these excellent young people.

We feel the Oahe unit has been well planned, properly supported, and thoroughly studied in order to provide the most in benefits to the largest segment of population concerned.

We feel our State is entitled to the economic and esthetic and recreational replacement this project will provide for the loss of these values to the many acres of fertile land, trees, and wildlife habitat which have been covered by water in the Missouri River lakes.

We appreciate an opportunity to testify in behalf of the early authorization of the Oahe irrigation unit and I have a statement and resolution from my board of directors that I will ask be filed.

Senator McGOVERN. Thank you so much. I know we are all interested in the wildlife and recreational byproducts of this project. We are especially glad to hear from the wildlife committee.

(The statement and resolution follows:)

STATEMENT AND RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

The South Dakota Wildlife Federation, as an affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation, is dedicated to the preservation and wise use of all remaining natural resources; of which fish, wildlife and recreation are a part. We believe that health of mind and body thru recreation is vitally essential to the welfare of our future generations.

The South Dakota Wildlife Federation supports and cooperates with all water resource developments which are multi-purpose in their planning, and take into consideration all the future needs of our people. After a careful appraisal of the organization and planning of the Oahe Irrigation Unit, the officers and di-