

South Dakota is just beginning to reap the benefits of Missouri River Basin water development. The bulk of the benefits have been to the areas downstream through reduced flooding, bank stabilization, better water supplies, and navigation. Even power produced within the State is exported to many areas outside South Dakota. South Dakotans have tolerated, and encouraged, the Missouri River Basin development knowing full well that the day would come when our vast irrigation potential could be undertaken. Now, 20 years after this great river basin program was initiated, we are just beginning to see the glimmer of irrigation benefits over the horizon. That horizon is still several years away. Yet we have to ask our people to "mark the X" and "sign on the dotted line" for projects they know will benefit their children and grandchildren much more than themselves. We are asking our farmer friends to make basic decisions—terrifically important decisions—decisions that will change their whole way of life—now, in support of irrigation when we know full well the benefits will not be forthcoming for 7, 10, or even 15 years. This is most difficult for the farmer who must gamble 1 year to the next on the weather, prices, and his ability to meet competition. Yet our farmers have "marked the X," have "signed the dotted line," and have supported efforts to develop our water resources. Witness the vote on conservancy district organization, the irrigation district signup or the contracting authority authorization vote. These folks are ready and willing to take the risk in supporting the Federal Government in good sound resource development investments.

We are proposing investments for concrete, capital producing improvements—something you can get your hands on—reservoirs, canals, powerplants, pumps, pipe—not some abstract, nonincome producing ideal. These are investments in solid works of improvements, designed by the best engineering and technical talent available, to bring returns to the people, to the Government and to the society as a whole.

We in the East Dakota Conservancy Subdistrict stand ready to endorse and support every effort to gain authorization and initiation of the Oahe irrigation unit. Such development will bring both direct and indirect benefits to people within our State through increased economic growth, reduction of fluctuating farm production and the providing of recreational and other water use benefits.

At this time I would like to present the following resolution adopted by the board of directors, East Dakota Conservancy Subdistrict, at its March 1967 meeting.

(The resolution referred to follows:)

RESOLUTION OF THE EAST DAKOTA CONSERVANCY SUBDISTRICT

Whereas, the Board of Directors, East Dakota Conservancy Sub-District, is interested in and supports full multiple purpose water resources development within the State of South Dakota as a whole, and

Whereas, the Oahe Irrigation Unit will provide both direct and indirect benefits to the people of South Dakota through increased economic growth, and

Whereas, considerable indirect benefits will accrue to the people of the East Dakota Conservancy Sub-District through construction and operation of the Oahe Irrigation Unit in our neighboring Oahe Conservancy Sub-District

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Directors, East Dakota Conservancy Sub-District hereby urges the United States Congress to authorize first