

Senator BIBLE: The section would seem to do that.

Senator CHURCH: Yes; that was the whole purpose of the section. And we tried to draft it as clearly as language could make it to protect the right to the property.

Senator BIBLE: Senator Jordan, questions?

Senator JORDAN: No questions.

Senator BIBLE: Further questions?

(No response.)

Thank you very much for your appearance here today. This has been very helpful and informative. This is the type of record we want to make. You have heard what Senator Church has said. And I hope this is what this particular section does.

Our next witness will be Mr. John H. Breckenridge, of Twin Falls, Idaho.

Mr. Breckenridge:

STATEMENT OF JOHN H. BRECKENRIDGE, TWIN FALLS, IDAHO

Mr. BRECKENRIDGE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

May I proceed, sir?

Senator BIBLE: Yes; you may, sir.

Mr. BRECKENRIDGE. Mr. Chairman, Senators Church and Jordan, my name is John H. Breckenridge. I live in Twin Falls, Idaho. I own a livestock ranch in the Sawtooth Valley. My father purchased the first part of this ranch 40 years ago, and I started working on the ranch 35 years ago. For the last 20 years, I have been the owner of the ranch. I have made some additions to it, and I have made a number of improvements such as new irrigation, reseeding, and so forth, so I know the area quite well. I am appearing before you on my own behalf and on behalf of the Sawtooth Valley Association, an association of a majority of the landowners in the Sawtooth Valley, and the north side communities, a group of the chambers of commerce of south-central Idaho.

I would much prefer to see the area remain under the present management system. It has been private development of the Sawtooth Valley that has created the ranches and the mining towns which S. 1267 is designed to preserve. Without irrigation, the lush green meadows on which sheep and cattle graze would not attain their present beauty. In many cases they are the product of reseeding in better grasses in addition to irrigation. But if Congress in its wisdom decides to create a national recreation area in this valley, I hope that the law will be one which protects the rights of the residents and property owners of the area as well as the right of the public to view the scenic wonders present there.

You will recall that last year this subcommittee held hearings on two bills relating to this area. One bill would have created a national park, the other a national recreational area. The hearings were held in Sun Valley, and a large number of local residents testified. Most of them opposed any change in the status quo, but to the extent Congress decided a change was necessary, they strongly favored a national recreation area over a national park. This bill reflects that preference, and I am deeply appreciative of the efforts of its sponsors, Senator Church and Senator Jordan, to take into consideration the points brought out at that hearing.