

**STATEMENT OF HON. STANLEY HATHAWAY, GOVERNOR OF THE
STATE OF WYOMING; ACCOMPANIED BY ROY PECK, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR, WYOMING NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD, CHEYENNE,
WYO.**

Governor HATHAWAY. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, if I may I would like to call up here with me the executive director of the Wyoming Natural Resources Board, Mr. Peck.

Senator ANDERSON. We will be glad to have you do so.

Governor HATHAWAY. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I have traveled to Washington with several of my fellow citizens of Wyoming to testify in favor of the enactment of S. 670, a bill to reauthorize the Riverton extension unit, Missouri River Basin project, to include the entire Riverton reclamation project.

Wyoming is a long way from Washington, and we are appreciative of the many efforts to improve our agricultural economy which have been made by the Congress. Just this last September, Members of Congress and representatives of the Bureau of the Budget and the Department of the Interior visited the Riverton project and, I believe, came away impressed by the affirmative changes they saw on the project and the need for this legislation to keep the momentum of these changes.

Agriculture is a fundamental part of the Wyoming economic base. And the Riverton project, with nearly 60,000 acres under cultivation, is an integral part of our Wyoming agricultural economy. By the Riverton project I make reference to the Midvale Irrigation District, which comprises the first and second divisions of the Riverton project, and the third division of the project. There are another 30,000 acres of land under irrigation in the Riverton-Fremont County area, making a total of about 100,000 acres of irrigated croplands in the Wind River Basin.

We do not underestimate the magnitude of the problems associated with the irrigation of these lands, and we do not try to hide some of the failures which have occurred in the nearly 70 years of agricultural endeavor in the lands of the Wind River.

But in that span of time, we have learned much about making these lands productive, and more important than anything else we have the land technicians, the farmers, who can make a profit from these lands, given a fair break in the economic winds which buffet agriculture in all parts of the Nation.

I mentioned affirmative changes earlier in this testimony that were observed during the recent tour of the committee to the project. By "affirmative changes," I mean especially people, people who have the capability to earn a wholesome and productive living from these lands, people like Mr. Bogacz, Mr. Welty, Mr. Anglen, and Mr. Davison who are testifying here today. These are capable, qualified farmers who have devoted their whole lives to these lands with heartening reward, and who, along with many others, are willing to dedicate the rest of their lives to these same lands.

This, then, is the fundamental difference that we see now as we ask favorable action on S. 670.