

and paper, plywood and veneer, shingle and shakes, hard and soft boards, poles and piling, doors, furniture and other forest products throughout Western Oregon and Western Washington. Our members operate more than 400 wood-using plants, conduct more than 200 different logging operations and employ more than 80,000 people. The annual payroll of their employees exceeds \$500 million.

Our members own 7.5 million acres of forestland in our region. They produce annually about 7 billion board feet of logs, buy the equivalent of 1.75 billion feet of logs in the form of chips annually for their pulp and board mills, and buy another 1.5 billion feet of logs annually on the open log market. They are steadily operating companies which continue in good markets and bad and are the backbone of communities in almost every one of the 38 counties in our region.

An important part of our industry's timber supply comes from public lands, including the national forests. Therefore, Industrial Forestry Association follows a policy of examining every proposal made for the withdrawal of public lands from productive forestry. The Association also has a policy of supporting the withdrawal of suitable areas of the national forests for addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System, created by Public Law 88-577, 88th Congress, 1964, where its studies demonstrate that such withdrawal will not adversely affect the economy of surrounding communities.

On June 2, 1964 the Association endorsed the Forest Service proposal for the Mt. Jefferson Wild Area. Now the Administration has proposed adding the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness to the National Wilderness Preservation System. We have studied the new proposal independently, as well as having sought the view of timber operators and others in the communities directly affected.

The Association believes that the proposal embodied in S. 2751 contains the maximum acreage which can be withdrawn as permanent wilderness without adversely affecting the opportunities for local jobs and payrolls which are dependent on raw materials from the national forests. Of the 96,462 acres proposed for inclusion in the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness 58,700 acres or 61 percent of the total are lands capable of growing commercial crops of timber through the practice of forestry. These productive forest lands contain a present inventory of 1 billion, 350 million board feet of mercantile timber. We believe this is a most generous contribution to wilderness preservation. Therefore, the Association endorses without change the Department of Agriculture proposal for adding the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness to the National Wilderness Preservation System as provided in S. 2751.

Senator HANSEN. We have a number of witnesses yet to be heard from.

Is there anyone here this afternoon who would find it difficult to be here tomorrow? We could take a little more time this evening.

The next witness, according to the list, is Mr. Prince Helfrich.

What is your pleasure, Mr. Helfrich?

Mr. HELFRICH. Yes; I can wait until the morning if you like.

Senator HANSEN. Let me ask one more time, is there anyone here who would find it inconvenient to be here tomorrow?

Is Mrs. Evelyn Lester here?

Mrs. LESTER. I will have someone else read my statement, or else leave it as is on the program here.

Senator HANSEN. We would be happy to hear from you. I understand that you do have a short statement, and if you would like we would be happy to hear from you.

Mrs. Lester, I understand you are a member of the Wanderbird Hiking Club here in Washington. Is that right?

Mrs. LESTER. Thank you, but I am representing myself rather than the Wanderbirds in the statement.

Senator HANSEN. You may proceed.

STATEMENT OF EVELYN LESTER, TAKOMA PARK, MD.

Mrs. LESTER. I am Mrs. Evelyn Lester of Takoma Park, Md. I would like to present this statement on behalf of myself. Before com-