

is a pleasure, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for me to be here today. Although I have appeared before many committees of the Congress in the past, I am here today in a new capacity, and I would like, if I could, Mr. Chairman, to preface my testimony with the observation that my new role is reflective of a changing attitude in the American business community.

My responsibilities with U.S. Plywood-Champion Papers includes not only activities in my familiar fields of air and water pollution control, but in the general area of conservation.

American industry generally, and U.S. Plywood-Champion Papers specifically, has a real and abiding interest in the best possible conservation practices. For this reason, Mr. Chairman, as a corporate citizen of the State of Wyoming, U.S. Plywood-Champion Papers is pleased to endorse the U.S. Forest Service proposal for the Washakie wilderness as submitted to this committee.

We believe that the Forest Service proposal for the establishment of the Washakie Wilderness Area, if ratified by the Congress, will assure the State of Wyoming and the people of the United States the benefits in perpetuity of one of Nature's unspoiled masterpieces. We urge this committee to take prompt and positive action on this proposal.

Mr. Chairman, as you are all well aware, numerous suggested changes by way of additions to or deletions from the proposed Washakie Wilderness Area have been advanced, and will be considered by this committee. Each of these has been evaluated by the Forest Service after hearing public testimony pro and con. The professional judgments of the Forest Service are reflected in the proposal now before you. We believe that the Forest Service has reached valid conclusions as to what properly belongs in the Washakie Wilderness Area. Nevertheless, each of the proposals to include or exclude acreage deserves serious and sober consideration by this committee. To a considerable extent the Congress will be guided by your recommendations in this matter and the ultimate congressional decision will have long-range implications for both the beauty and the prosperity of a vast area in central Wyoming. A wise decision now, Mr. Chairman, will go a long way to guarantee both.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to comment briefly on two suggested areas for the Washakie Wilderness Area, the two that have been discussed most of the time by most of the witnesses before this committee yesterday and today.

I am referring to the area known as Bear Creek, designated as area D, in the Forest Service report, and the area known as DuNoir Creek Drainage Basin, designated as area J, on the same map, in the same report.

Mr. Chairman, in my opinion, neither area D nor area J can be properly included in any soundly conceived and soundly established wilderness area. Both of these, I submit, Mr. Chairman, are precluded by the definition of what constitutes a wilderness in section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act as approved by Congress in 1964.

Mr. Chairman, neither the DuNoir nor the Bear Creek Basin qualify as "an area of Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence without permanent improvements or habitation." No amount of wishing it were otherwise can change the fact that the DuNoir