

**STATEMENT OF KENNETH E. GRANT, ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR,
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE;
ACCOMPANIED BY DR. CECIL WADLEIGH, DIRECTOR, SOIL AND
WATER CONSERVATION DIVISION, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Mr. GRANT. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

The Department of Agriculture is happy to have the opportunity to appear before you today to provide you with a brief report on the concern and the commitment of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in the area of environmental pollution. We commend the valuable service your subcommittee is performing by holding these hearings. Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman calls this subject a conservation crisis that is a matter of urgent public concern.

I am Kenneth E. Grant, Associate Administrator of the Soil Conservation Service, and I will present the statement for the Department of Agriculture. I have with me Dr. Cecil H. Wadleigh, Director of Soil and Water Conservation Division, of the Agricultural Research Service of USDA.

Enhancing the quality of the rural environment is of direct concern to and is a major objective of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Department is also concerned with, and in cooperation with other agencies shares important responsibilities for, the quality of the urban environment.

Agriculture and forestry have a big stake in environmental pollution. This is indicated by four major points: (a) They are being hurt by contamination in the environment; (b) agriculture and forestry contribute some of the pollutants that are of concern; (c) work in the U.S. Department of Agriculture over the past 100 years has developed a vast array of new technology toward improving the quality of our environment, and has fostered its application on farms, ranches, forests, and in food and fiber processing; and (d) improved practices to further reduce pollution related to agriculture and forestry must be developed by those who are knowledgeable of the urgent needs for efficient systems of mechanized operations on these farms, ranches, and forests.

ADVERSE EFFECTS ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Mr. Chairman, you have received ample testimony on the ample tonnage (142 million tons) of pollutants entering the atmosphere over the United States during this past year. We in Agriculture are deeply concerned over the extensive damage these airborne chemicals inflict on the trees of our forests, the crop of our fields, our ornamental plantings, and even our farm animals. Smog in the Los Angeles area is damaging pine and other trees 50 miles from the city. Years ago, stack gas emissions completely denuded forest lands around smelters. Although the worst cases of smelter damage have been corrected, exten-