

**STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN D. DINGELL, MEMBER OF CONGRESS
FROM MICHIGAN**

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chairman, I want to express my particular appreciation to you for the privilege of being before this committee. I also wish to express to you my sincere thanks for the privilege of working with you on legislation in the area of preservation of our environment.

I wish to express apologies to the committee, in that I am forced by circumstances, including the fact that several Members of Congress are waiting for me elsewhere, to perhaps abbreviate somewhat my testimony before this distinguished body this morning.

I would like to commend the committee. My valued friend, the distinguished and able chairman, the gentleman from Connecticut, for his interest in this. This is, I think, something that is very much in the frontiers of the law and the wise use of natural resources.

It is something where a man has, as of this time, not really placed his foot down for the first time.

I think that the wisdom of the Chair and the members of the committee in inquiring into this problem, of the wise use of environment, is something for which Americans in many generations to come will have cause to be deeply grateful and express a very real and lasting gratitude to the Chair and to the members of the committee.

For the record, Mr. Chairman, my name is John D. Dingell. I am a Member of Congress from the 16th Congressional District. If I may, Mr. Chairman, I would like to simply insert my statement in the record, perhaps summarizing very briefly.

Mr. DADDARIO. You may proceed in that way, Mr. Dingell. We will put in the record your full statement.

Mr. DINGELL. I have submitted to the committee, Mr. Chairman, a statement and a very brief analysis of H.R. 7796, of which I am the author.

For a number of years, Mr. Chairman, I have been much concerned about the problems of our environment, what mankind is doing to it.

It is my experience that man little knows the effects of what he is doing, where he does he oftentimes disregards those effects which almost invariably are destructive and with great frequency, in fact almost complete regularity, highly destructive—either for mankind or his future interests in this earth and on this world of ours.

It is my experience, Mr. Chairman, that we have found no way of putting together a real understanding of what we are doing, and we have no agency that is chargeable solely with responsibility for continuing scrutiny of what we are doing.

We lack knowledge; we lack organization; we lack the ability to establish a lasting policy and to appropriately evaluate the effects of what we do. There is very little that man does with his enormous technological capability that does not have a tremendous impact upon the environment, much of which is either unforeseen or unforeseeable under the present state of affairs. It is fair also to say, Mr. Chairman, that the handling of environmental problems is totally disorganized within the government. For years I was chairman of the Subcommittee on Oceanography, and it was our subcommittee's purpose to