

The proposed inclusion of 48 miles of the Wolf River, the really spectacular portion of the Wolf River, is one, I believe, that is fully supported by all groups. It is truly bi-partisan. The State of Wisconsin and its distinguished Governor, Governor Knowles, is vigorously behind this proposal.

I should say right at the outset that these two counties are in the congressional district of our friend and colleague, Congressman Mel Laird of Wisconsin. I called Mr. Laird's office this morning to see if he could appear with me. Unfortunately, he is at an Appropriations Committee hearing but I worked very closely with Mr. Laird and I am confident that he fully supports the inclusion of the Wolf River, too. However, since it is never proper for one member to speak for another, and in view of the very wise proviso of this committee which I have heard in the three cases that came before me, I think what I should do is to get a statement from Mr. Laird which should be perhaps inserted if there is no objection, at this point in the record to confirm what I say because only he can speak for himself.

Mr. TAYLOR. In the absence of objection, a statement by Congressman Laird may be inserted at this point in the record.

(The statement of Mr. Laird follows:)

STATEMENT OF HON. MELVIN R. LAIRD, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE
STATE OF WISCONSIN

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee I wish merely to confirm at this point the statement made by my colleague from Wisconsin (Mr. Reuss) that I strongly support making portions of the Wolf River part of a National Scenic River system and have introduced legislation to that effect (H.R. 6373).

Mr. ASPINALL. Reserving the right to object and I shall not object, of course, do I understand that you are asking that this be now determined to be a scenic river or that it be studied?

Mr. REUSS. That it be now determined to be a scenic river, Mr. Chairman, because the Department of the Interior believes, the State of Wisconsin believes, and I think the entire Wisconsin delegation in both bodies believe that it is eligible, that all the studies have been completed both by the State of Wisconsin and the Department of the Interior, and that it is now not only eligible for inclusion but, as I shall make clear in just a moment, ripe for inclusion.

Mr. ASPINALL. Does this study include the support of the Menominee Indians for this proposal?

Mr. REUSS. Yes, sir; it does, with the important qualification which I shall make clear in a minute, the qualification having to do with the formal giving of their consent.

Mr. ASPINALL. As far as you know, all of the costs of effectuating this as a scenic river and of maintaining it, operating and maintaining it, have been determined already by the Department of the Interior; is that correct?

Mr. REUSS. And by the State of Wisconsin, sir. The Department of the Interior has the costs. I have those costs. My understanding is that they are to be given to the committee for its internal use and thus, I will not repeat what I know is information at the committee's disposal.

Suffice it to say that the proposal is in my judgment, a very modest one in that only 770 acres would be purchased. There would be scenic