

many, many years. In fact ever since they have owned it and they have owned it for upward of a half century. And so, all of the acreage or most of the acreage adjacent to this area has been owned and is presently owned by the Northern States Power Co. and they are interested, too, incidentally, in making this land available for the purposes of a wild rivers area.

Mr. McCLURE. When you say making it available, you mean in fee?

Mr. KARTH. That question has not yet been decided, as I understand it. They are somewhat undecided as to whether or not they ought to make it available at reasonable cost or whether or not they ought to just give title without cost to the Federal Government.

Mr. McCLURE. The upper portion which would be—this portion that you have identified is in the portion which you urge be put in the instant section?

Mr. KARTH. Yes, sir.

Mr. McCLURE. And the lower portion which you recommend be placed in the study section would have a different land ownership pattern?

Mr. KARTH. Yes; it would, indeed.

Mr. McCLURE. Thank you.

Mr. KARTH. If there are no further questions, I want to thank you again, Mr. Chairman, and Chairman Aspinall, for your time, and the gentlemen of the committee.

Mr. TAYLOR. Thank you for an effective presentation.

(The statement of Mr. Karth follows:)

STATEMENT OF HON. JOSEPH E. KARTH, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE
STATE OF MINNESOTA

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before this Committee to share with you my alarm for the future of the Saint Croix-Namekagon River systems in Minnesota and Wisconsin as a recreational resource for our country.

I used "alarm" advisedly in connection with the Saint Croix because just days ago the Saint Paul Office of the Army Corps of Engineers announced it had transmitted to higher headquarters for approval, plans to erect a 100-120 foot high dam above Taylors Falls, Minnesota. In my opinion, this would be most unfortunate for this area of unparalleled beauty to be dammed and despoiled.

In both the 89th and 90th Congresses I introduced legislation which dealt specifically with the subject of creating the Saint Croix and the Namekagon as a scenic riverway. Much of the preliminary planning and paperwork has already been completed thanks to the fine assistance of Senators Mondale and Nelson and the National Park Service.

Considerable work has been done in countless hours of hearings and discussions to resolve many local problems especially involving property in the stretch of the river below Taylors Falls to its confluence with the Mississippi. The constant exchange of views between the citizens of the area and representatives of the Federal Government were indeed most gratifying and also very fruitful in writing legislation which would meet the greater need of our country to preserve the natural treasure that is the Saint Croix valley while protecting the interests of the people who live, work, and play there.

While I would, therefore, prefer the enactment of my own bill, H.R. 752, which deals only with the Saint Croix-Namekagon I realize there is other legislation before you that would include these streams in an omnibus "package" with other rivers.

My major concern is that time will run out for this yet largely unspoiled river system—that unregulated commercial-industrial development on the lower reaches of the Saint Croix where it separates Wisconsin and Minnesota will effectively destroy its attraction for those people from all over the nation who enjoy its beauties.