

Mr. Chairman, the 10th District of Wisconsin which I represent and through which most of the St. Croix and its tributary, the Namekagon, flow, is an area which is pulling itself up by its bootstraps. Its once great stock of valuable timber has been cut; its mineral resources have been sadly depleted; its farm land, which has never provided too fertile a soil for efficient agriculture, cannot support successful farming operations. Yet, this area has gone from a depressed area to one of increasing self-sufficiency. The recreation industry, with its tourist expenditures, has contributed immeasurably to the economic growth and stability of the area. Keeping the St. Croix and the Namekagon as scenic rivers is vital to the economic well-being of the area and its residents. I sincerely hope that this Subcommittee, the full Interior Committee and this Congress will unite in "Saving the Scenic St. Croix."

At this time, I would like to list some of the local area and state groups which are supporting the St. Croix as a scenic river, along with submitting a copy of a Resolution adopted by the County Board of Supervisors of Washburn County on January 10, 1967. The list of organizations and the Resolution follow:

Wisconsin and Minnesota State Departments of Conservation
 Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
 Wisconsin Resources Conservation Council
 Wisconsin Farmers Union
 Wisconsin State Division of the Izaak Walton League
 Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs
 Save the St. Croix, Inc.
 Five County Development Group of Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Iron and Price Counties
 Hayward Lakes Resort Association
 Southern Bayfield County Sportsman's Club
 Ashland County Civic Club
 St. Croix Alliance of Conservation Clubs
 4-County Corners Sportsman's Club
 Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission

PROPOSED RESOLUTION, ST. CROIX NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAY,
 WASHBURN COUNTY, WIS., JANUARY 10, 1967

Whereas, the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers flowing within and along the western boundary of the State of Wisconsin and through Washburn County in the State of Wisconsin and through adjoining counties of Douglas, Bayfield, Sawyer, Burnett, Polk, Pierce, and St. Croix Counties, Wisconsin; and,

Whereas, the region has experienced economic decline and significant losses of population over the past 15 years, and due to the decline in the lumber, mining, and agriculture industries, the area must now look, in part, to the growing recreation industry for economic growth; and,

Whereas, the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers comprise more than 200 miles of unpolluted, scenic, and undisturbed wild river and scenic riverway; and,

Whereas, these areas are of great scenic and historical value and possess a high value to the Nation, to Wisconsin, and to Washburn County as examples of unspoiled areas of great natural beauty, which are used by large numbers of Wisconsin and non-resident visitors each year for outdoor recreation and physical and spiritual refreshment; and,

Whereas, these areas are within easy traveling distance of over 50 million people, and the development of outdoor recreation resources within the proposed St. Croix River National Scenic Riverway will mean additional tourist expenditures, the establishment of direct Federal employment for both permanent and seasonal jobs and the generation of many more jobs in the tourist service industry; and,

Whereas, the establishment of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway would preserve the scenic and historical beauty of these fine rivers in perpetuity for Washburn County and Wisconsin citizens and indeed the citizens of the Nation and for future generations, stimulate the development of an outdoor recreation industry, provide new jobs and new sources of income to people in the area, benefit the people of Wisconsin and the Nation, who visit these areas each year, and over the long run enhance the local property tax base by attracting new summer home development by persons desiring to use Washburn County's unspoiled lakes and wild rivers;