

## STATEMENT OF TEXAS WATER CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

The Texas Water Conservation Association opposes this legislation.

## WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

The principles and objectives of the "Wild and Scenic Rivers Act," as contained in S. 119, as passed by the U.S. Senate in 1967, seriously infringe upon the long established concept of multiple use of land and water resources by providing that certain areas, including streams, tributaries, or rivers be designated as national wild river areas without sufficient consideration of the value of alternate beneficial uses and without sufficient recognition of water rights.

The "Wild and Scenic Rivers Act" also proposes to establish "national scenic river areas," some of which include within their boundaries potential water development sites which are essential to the maximum use of our water and related land resources under a multi-purpose concept. The subject of determining the potential future needs of the various reclamation states, including Texas, is now being made by the various states.

Therefore, the Texas Water Conservation Association recommends that no legislation be enacted which could authorize the designation of an area as a wild or scenic river area without first obtaining the approval of the affected states.

Mr. TAYLOR. We are honored to have with us this morning two Members from the other body, two of our Senators, Senators Church and Jordan of Idaho. We will ask for them to come up jointly to the table and make their individual statements, and then we can ask questions of the two of you jointly.

Senator Church.

## STATEMENT OF HON. FRANK CHURCH, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF IDAHO

Senator CHURCH. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Let me say first of all that I appreciate your consideration in allowing me to express my views on proposed wild and scenic river legislation this morning. Although I have been the chief sponsor of the bills in the Senate, including S. 119, I am well aware that a number of additional measures have been introduced in the House and are presently before your committee, but all of these proposals have the same goal, Mr. Chairman, that of establishing a national river system that will preserve certain wild and scenic rivers for posterity.

Mr. TAYLOR. Do we have copies of your statement?

Senator CHURCH. Mr. Chairman, I regret this was hastily prepared and I have not had an opportunity to provide the committee with the copies.

Mr. TAYLOR. We will listen rather than read.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

In a country where nature has been so lavish and where we have been so spendthrift of indigenous beauty, to set aside a few rivers in their natural state should be considered an obligation.

I know that you are well aware of the background which led to this proposal. You are also aware, I am sure, of the rivers proposed for inclusion in the system.

In S. 119 and most of the other bills, Idaho would provide more than half of the proposed wild river mileage in the initial system. On this basis, Idaho has a major interest in the final form of this legislation.