

These are the Idaho rivers in the bill, although no doubt there are others that are qualified—at least to be studied for possible inclusion. The St. Joe, Priest, Bruneau and Moyie Rivers in Idaho are all worthy of study and I commend them to this committee for inclusion in the study category of the bill.

There has recently been a threat of dredging in the upper St. Joe, a beautiful little river in northern Idaho internationally known for its excellent fly-fishing. Acting at the request of many constituents, although this is a matter presently for the State of Idaho to decide, I filed a protest against the dredging proposal with the Idaho State Land Board. I would be happy to see the St. Joe included in the study category of the legislation. I think it would make an admirable addition to the system, where it would be protected from dredging and other threats of despoilation.

Mr. Chairman, I did not come here this morning to belabor the particulars of S. 119, but I would like to point out that the bill is the distillation of a tremendous amount of work in the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee.

For example, many long hours were spent in executive sessions hammering out the condemnation and water rights provisions. You will note that subsection 5(d) places a limitation on condemnation. It provides that where 50 percent or more of the acreage within the entire national wild or scenic river area is owned by Federal, State or local governments, neither secretary could condemn in fee title but could condemn for scenic easements. This language was adopted because the committee believed that where rivers flow through this amount of public land there would be ample bank-land areas for public access and public facilities without the need for fee acquisition of private property.

Great care was exercised in the final language concerning water rights in subsection 6(f). It would preserve the status quo, and the committee report on S. 119 stresses that no change is intended.

I would be the last to suggest, Mr. Chairman, that S. 119 is the perfect answer to save some of our wonderful American rivers, but Senator Jordan and I recommend it to you as the bill favored by Idaho, and one that met with the unanimous approval of the Senate, and since Idaho has made so large a contribution to the initial system, we thought it proper to emphasize that the bill does have the support of Idaho. Senator Jordan and I joined in the support of the bill in the Senate, and that understanding was the basis for the unanimous approval of the Senate by a vote of 84 to nothing. So I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the courtesy of giving me this opportunity to appear here this morning.

Mr. TAYLOR. Senator, I commend you on a fine statement. You do have a beautiful State and you do have some rivers that lend themselves to the purposes of this bill.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. TAYLOR. Senator Jordan, we will be glad to hear your statement.