

**STATEMENT OF BEN H. THOMPSON, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,
NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON STATE PARKS; ACCOMPANIED BY
BARRY TINDALL**

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you.

To save the committee's time and to be as precise as possible, I am going to read the pertinent excerpts from the statement.

Mr. TAYLOR. In the absence of objection, the entire statement will be made a part of the record at this point.

(The statement referred to follows:)

**STATEMENT OF DR. SAL J. PREZIOSO, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT,
NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee: I am Ben H. Thompson, Executive Secretary of the National Conference on State Parks appearing for Dr. Sal J. Prezioso, Executive Vice President, National Recreation and Park Association, with headquarters at 1700 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. The National Conference on State Parks is a branch of the National Recreation and Park Association.

Dr. Prezioso has asked me to express his regret that previous out-of-town commitments precluded his being here personally to testify.

The National Recreation and Park Association is a private, nonprofit, service organization dedicated to the advancement of parks and recreation and related resource conservation.

It is our understanding that the Committee has received from the Department of the Interior extensive data on the above listed bills comparing their major provisions and recommending clarifying and perfecting amendments of H.R. 8416, with which we generally agree.

While we do not address ourselves to specific rivers or waterway systems, but rather to the concept behind this legislative package, we believe that state and federal studies of wild and scenic rivers made in recent years justify the initial designation as scenic rivers, at least the nine rivers or segments thereof included in the Administration bill, H.R. 6166 and H.R. 90. These rivers include Rio Grande, Rogue, Salmon, Cacapon, Eleven Point, St. Croix-Namekagon, Wolf, and the Shenandoah. These rivers would total approximately 1,000 miles and would make a significant beginning for a national waterways system.

The Association urges that additional rivers, particularly those near centers of high population densities, be studied by the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior, in cooperation with the States, as soon as possible, to formulate recommendations for the designation of additional scenic rivers. It is particularly encouraging to see many midwest and eastern rivers under consideration. We feel that the final form of legislation should authorize and direct the appropriate agency to study any rivers, which in that agency's opinion, may be eligible for inclusion in the system.

We further urge that every agency of the Federal government concerned with structures on or affecting the flow of esthetics of any potential addition to a national waterway system be required to consult the Federal and State agencies charged with administering the system. The administering agency would determine whether or not such proposals are in keeping with the objectives of the national waterway system. This provision should not be limited to those rivers in the initial study classification.

We believe that certain rivers or segments thereof are of such outstanding significance that the Congress may wish to consider individual bills and special measures for their protection and public use. We have in mind such projects as the proposed Potomac National River, proposed Suwannee National River in Georgia and Florida, the proposed Lewis and Clark Wilderness Waterway in Montana, and the proposed Buffalo National River in Arkansas. There are doubtless others. Such rivers, in due course, should become part of a national waterway system.

We endorse Section 12, (a) and (b) of H.R. 4816 which recognizes the need for the establishment of state and local scenic river areas and directs the Secretary of the Interior to encourage their planning and financing under the Land