

try to take care of this, but remember, a great many of these difficulties came out of the rush in the early days to see that the frontier was made available to the people. We can't do all of these things at one time, especially if the people are not desirous, the people within the area are not desirous, of cooperating.

That is our difficulty, and, believe me, I am for what you propose, what most people propose, but you can't clean up anywhere near as rapidly as you could if you had something in its natural state.

Mr. TAYLOR. We thank both of you very much for your testimony.

Mr. Robert Waldrop, Sierra Club.

Mr. Waldrop, do you desire to read your statement?

STATEMENT OF ROBERT WALDROP, SIERRA CLUB

Mr. WALDROP. With your permission, I will try to capsule it, reading some of the topic points.

Mr. TAYLOR. The statement will be placed in the record at this point and the witness may comment on it as he sees fit.

Mr. WALDROP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My name is Robert Waldrop. I work for and am representing the Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club has long had an active interest in efforts to protect our remaining natural rivers from the unnatural development which has despoiled so many streams across the country. It is with great pleasure that we endorse the positive posture of the bills under consideration today. H.R. 90 and H.R. 8416 are particularly good approaches toward protecting some of our free flowing rivers from the specific threats of the future.

At this stage in our history we have a great opportunity, and indeed a great responsibility, to achieve and perpetuate a balance between development and naturalness of these rivers. A few years from now and the choice will have been forfeited and the answer indelible.

Few major streams remain undammed and fewer still retain their original pristine characteristics. Most of the remaining natural rivers have escaped development because of their relative isolation from population centers; the majority are now within national park or forest areas. But isolation and location in a park or national forest is no guarantee of the perpetuation of their natural qualities. Dams, roads, mineral activities, bridges, and the like continue to threaten these natural stream areas. It is most important that effective protection be given deserving rivers where they remain.

We are twice fortunate in having two excellent bills available for consideration, H.R. 90, and H.R. 8416, and the Sierra Club is doubly pleased to support the concepts in both. Such a sympathetic and rational approach to a complicated scenic resource problem is exemplary.

However, it is neither practical nor necessary to pass both bills. The highlights of both can be combined in a sort of legislative supernova. In the resulting bill the Sierra Club would like to see the following provisions of the parent bills retained:

1. A classification system, which would recognize the varying types of rivers deserving protection.

2. Some general restrictions on the types of development permitted in the different classes of scenic rivers. The language in H.R. 90, de-