

When to these factors is added the obvious impacts of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, it can be seen that major efforts must be made to guide growth in the Tocks Island Region if it is to continue to play traditional roles for the New York and Philadelphia metropolitan areas. These roles are two: the region has long been the playground, the recreation mecca for numerous residents of the large Eastern cities, a role that will expand greatly with the development of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area; and the region also has long been a major supplier of fresh water to New York City, Philadelphia and many other smaller urban areas.

While TIRAC's concerns and programs span the entire seven county region, [the focus of this testimony will be on that approximately 70 mile section of the Delaware which flows from Hancock, New York to Matamoras, Pennsylvania/Port Jervis, New York.]

The imminent completion of the interstate highway system, the rapidly increasing popularity of camping and canoeing and the coming of the Tocks Island projects are all combining to generate what will be, in the next few years, almost irresistible development pressures on the Upper Delaware River. These pressures are being most accurately reflected in one positive indicator: land speculation. The value of land, the demand for land and the search for land along the Upper Delaware are all beginning to grow fairly rapidly.

The Upper Delaware River has many features of regional and national significance which deserve protection or preservation. Among these—

The section of river from Narrowsburg, New York, to Port Jervis, New York is one of the few truly exciting areas of white water in the Eastern United States.

To protect the Tocks Island reservoir from eutrophication, it will be absolutely essential that the Upper Delaware's water quality be kept at a very high level—a fact which in itself indicates a need to protect the Upper Delaware from major ecological changes and, thus, from most major developments.

The Upper Delaware affords various types of recreation—white water canoeing, float trips, cold water fishing, and so forth—which are becoming popular and which will not be offered in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

The Upper Delaware is rich in history and thus deserves every protection. Some items of historical interest range from well preserved sections of the Delaware and Hudson Canal in Pennsylvania and New York through the first Roebling suspension bridge at Barryville, New York to Zane Grey's former home in Lackawaxen, Pennsylvania.

The communities of the Upper Delaware retain a charm and way of life which regretfully is fast disappearing in our country. A major part of the charm, incidentally, stems from the location of the communities on a free flowing river whose waters are still of a very high quality.

For these and many other reasons it is essential that the Upper Delaware be preserved where appropriate and otherwise protected through an orderly plan of development as quickly as possible.

Mr. Chairman, we are not here today to argue that the Upper Delaware River be an integral part of any scenic rivers bill this committee may approve. Rather, we are arguing that it is essential that a system be established in and through which (1) certain obviously wild rivers—and there are very few of these in the United States—can be protected immediately and (2) other rivers can be protected after study because of their unique scenic, historical, cultural or ecological features or values. Such a system should be established by Congressional adoption of a bill which is: (1) comprehensive in its delineation of types of rivers which can be included in the system; (2) highly flexible in the techniques or powers that can be used for establishing elements of the system; and (3) all-government in approach, that is, that permits elements of the system to be established by actions of the Federal, State or local governments. Both H.R. 90 and H.R. 8416 appear to meet these tests.

We are particularly pleased that H.R. 90 and H.R. 8416—as well as some of the other scenic rivers' bills—permit a scenic rivers' system to be established through a variety of land control techniques. Given the nature of our economy and the extensive Federal and State land holdings in the region, we would prefer that outright land acquisition be kept at a minimum and that most protection be accomplished through the acquisition of easements or development rights.

Thank you very much for permitting us to make this statement. If you have any questions about the statement, I will be pleased to answer them at this time.