

(The prepared statement of Mr. Loring F. Oeming follows:)

STATEMENT OF LORING F. OEMING, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, MICHIGAN WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION, DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, LANSING, MICH.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Loring F. Oeming.

Thank you for granting me the privilege of commenting upon legislation relating to water pollution control upon which you are deliberating. I am appearing in my capacity as Executive Secretary of the Michigan Water Resources Commission of the Department of Conservation. This Commission has been delegated the authority by the Legislature to control the pollution of the waters of our State, both surface and underground, including Michigan's portion of the Great Lakes. The position I am expressing here has been approved by Governor George Romney.

I am a graduate Sanitary Engineer and am licensed to practice professional engineering under Michigan Law. I have had 35 years experience in various capacities associated with the administration of the State's water resources and pollution control programs. Commencing in 1934, I have successively occupied the position of Hydraulic Engineer, Sanitary Engineer and Chief Engineer for the Commission. Since July 1, 1962, I have held the position of Executive Secretary.

The comments I wish to offer are directed toward H.R. 15907, H.R. 16044 and S. 2760.

We in Michigan very much appreciate your interest and efforts to control water pollution and the many ways in which you have sought to strengthen the partnership between the states and the Federal government in advancing our mutual objectives toward achieving clean water for the Nation.

The control of water pollution holds very high priority among the objectives of Michigan's Executive and Legislative branches of Government. As you may know, Governor Romney has proposed that a \$335 million bond issue to combat water pollution be placed on the November general election ballot. The Michigan Senate and House have acted in impressive accord and with near unanimity in approving the necessary supporting legislation.

Gentlemen, I understand that you have before you several bills dealing with various aspects of water pollution control and the financing of sewage treatment works. Consequently, this statement will be general in nature, and limited to the areas of immediate interest to Michigan.

GRANTS FOR WASTE TREATMENT PLANT OPERATION

First—we endorse the aims of H.R. 16044 as expressed in the preamble of that bill. They are constructive and impressive. The concept of providing grants to assist in improving the performance of municipal sewage treatment plants holds definite prospects of achieving measurable improvements in water quality, substantially in advance of the time when treatment plant modifications or additions can be constructed to obtain the full degree of performance that may be required.

The provisions of the bill would stimulate the upgrading of performance of existing treatment plants with the resultant reduction in loading of the receiving waters with certain pollutants, notably solids, oxygen consuming substances and phosphates.

An example of how the provisions of this bill could have an immediate and beneficial effect on water quality is found at Grayling, Michigan, a resort community of less than 2,000 permanent residents. The existing treatment facility is inadequate to provide the necessary degree of protection for the famous trout waters of the Au Sable River, particularly during the seasonal influx of tourists and of personnel at a nearby National Guard encampment. Trial full scale testing at Grayling this past year disclosed that even with the inadequate plant, substantial removal of oxygen demand, solids and phosphates could be achieved simply by the addition of certain chemicals. Phosphates alone were reduced some 70% by such addition. Thus, during the period of time it will take to design, arrange the financing and construct the needed plant improvements, a substantial measure of enhancement in quality of the river can be achieved, although at a distinct increase in operating costs. Assistance in paying these costs would be extremely helpful.