

ment. 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, Mich., 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 percent 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.

The next proposed legislation on which we would like to comment is S. 2760. The pollution control needs which are highlighted by this bill's proposed amendments to the Water Pollution Control Act are serious problems whose solution definitely requires Federal assistance.

#### LAKE POLLUTION CONTROL

The needs for improved techniques for controlling lake pollution in a State like Michigan, with its numerous inland lakes, are urgent. We endorse the concept of research and demonstrations which would lead to the restoration of these lakes to their full degree of usefulness.