

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D.C., May 2, 1968.

HON. GEORGE H. FALLON,
*Chairman, Committee on Public Works,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am concerned about the provisions of H.R. 15907, a bill to revise regulations governing Federal contributions to sewage treatment plants, as they would affect plans in Michigan to control water pollution by the construction of 210 new sewage treatment plants and enlargement of 126 existing plants.

To launch this statewide program estimated to cost \$1,200,000,000 the Michigan Legislature has placed a proposal to authorize a \$335,000,000 bond issue on the ballot for November. If adopted, part of those funds would be used to "pre-finance" future Federal contributions to sewage plant construction, in accordance with provisions in existing Federal law.

The Michigan Legislature has been willing to go ahead on the basis of the express and implied promises in the 1966 Federal legislation, as has New York. I understand nearly a dozen States have similar plans in various stages of development.

The passage of H.R. 15907 as introduced would substitute other provisions for financing future sewage treatment plants. This change would take place before the people of Michigan have a chance to vote on the plan approved by the Michigan Legislature.

I am sure you can appreciate that such an action would offer opponents of the Michigan water cleanup an opportunity to create uncertainty in the public mind about the State's program. I hope a way can be found to avoid placing Michigan's Clean Water Program in such jeopardy.

Michigan spokesmen object to the proposals in H.R. 15907 which would divide sewage treatment plants into two classes, and offer 30-year contracts for Federal contributions to construction costs only to plants in areas serving more than 125,000 persons. This would limit this form of aid to 14 of Michigan's 83 counties, and 106 of 335 communities planning construction. It would force sponsors of plants planned for 229 communities to rely on sharing in Federal year-to-year grants. The prefinancing provisions presently in the law apply equally to plants of large or small size.

H.R. 15907 also would deny the tax exemption privilege to the proposed Michigan bonds, and insist on user charges which would be unrealistic in some instances. I endorse the conclusions expressed by Ralph A. MacMullan, Director of the Michigan Department of Conservation, in his letter to you of April 24:

"PL 84-660 as it stands now is a good law. We strongly believe that the amendments contained in H.R. 15907 would weaken, rather than strengthen water pollution abatement in Michigan. We urge that the State of Michigan be allowed to continue its battle against water pollution under the commitments made by Congress under the Clean Water Restoration Act."

This need not preclude Congress from offering more explicit financing assurances to encourage future construction programs.

Will you please include my letter in the record of hearings on this legislation.

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,

JOHN D. DINGELL,
Member of Congress.

Mr. BLATNIK. We have a letter here from Hercules, Inc., in support of your H.R. 16044 and encouraging the use of water soluble polymers in the separation of solids from liquid suspension.

It will appear in the record at this point.

(The letter from Hercules, Inc., follows:)

HERCULES, INC.,
Wilmington, Del., April 18, 1968.

HON. JOHN A. BLATNIK,
*Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

(Attention of Maurice B. Tobin, legislative assistant).

DEAR MR. BLATNIK: During the past seven years Hercules Incorporated has investigated the use of organic polyelectrolytes (water soluble polymers) in the