

other program. We have done a tremendous job out there in sewage treatment plants, and we do not want to stop the program.

Mrs. CLUSEN. We certainly agree with you.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DENNEY. Yes.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Following that line of comment, there is one thing that we in the committee are very much concerned about, and I think many Members of Congress have expressed their concern over what I think are dangerous population trends toward urbanization in the country. And we feel there might be an opportunity through this legislation to reverse a part of this trend. And that is the one area of your testimony that I might have a little bit concern about, and that is whether or not we should be advancing the opportunity for just the urban areas to improve their sewage treatment works, possibly at the expense of the rural areas. And if I drew the trends for the next decade in this country somewhere along the line, we have got to move away from the megalopolis trends, and hopefully redistribute the population throughout the country, because we know we have 70 percent of the people living on 1 percent of the land.

This is not a very good balance by any standard. Would you see any reason why we should not take whatever opportunities we might have legislatively, such as this vehicle, to improve the ability of small communities to have the necessary facilities—and this of course requires funding—in order to permit them to accommodate industry, hopefully to decentralize part of this country?

Mrs. CLUSEN. I certainly do agree with your basic philosophy. And I am very interested in your statement that this could perhaps be used as a method of decentralization. I confess that we had not thought of it.

Of course you know the league would have preferred the grants-in-aid program as it was if full appropriation could have been done. And I think this would have done exactly what you would most like to see done in rural and urban areas.

But failing that, it seems to us that under this method this might be a way of balancing out what has happened in the grants-in-aid program. But certainly we are in agreement with your philosophy about this. Certainly in defining what areas are covered by this, we know the committee will exercise its best judgment on what is needed most.

Thank you.

Mr. BLATNIK. Thank you very much, Mrs. Clusen.

Mrs. CLUSEN. Thank you.

Mr. BLATNIK. Next we have a representative from the National Association of Counties, Mr. Bill Basford of Jacksonville, Fla., accompanied by our good friend C. D. Ward, executive director, from the Washington office.

Mr. Ward, would you want to give any preliminaries?

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM BASFORD, JACKSONVILLE, FLA., NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES, ACCOMPANIED BY C. D. WARD, GENERAL COUNSEL

Mr. WARD. My name is C. D. Ward, and I am general counsel for the National Association of Counties. I am accompanied by our wit-