

STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN ARNOLD OLSEN, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS
FROM THE STATE OF MONTANA

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate having this opportunity to testify here today in behalf of this important amendment.

All of us know that as time progresses our water resources will become a more and more precious commodity. There has been a great deal of public support for improving and perfecting the Federal Water Pollution Control Act which became law in 1956. I believe the Congress and the press of this country have done an outstanding job in informing all of our citizens of the need for immediate action to reverse the trend toward more and more pollution in our waters.

Public demand led to a strengthening of this Act in the 1961 amendments and in the Water Quality Act of 1965 and the Clean Water Restoration Act of 1966. I am pleased that the states and Federal government have moved quickly to implement this legislation.

I come from a state where citizens are confronted with plentiful water supplies in some areas and a shortage of water in others. In areas where water is plentiful and pure the people of Montana appreciate its value and are united behind efforts to maintain the strictest possible water quality controls. And, in areas where there is a shortage of water, the eagerness to conserve and make the best use of our water is equally strong.

Perhaps our citizens are fortunate in having had the opportunity to look around the country to areas in which there has been increasing industrial pollution on the one hand and rapidly increasing population on the other. They have heard the reports from many parts of our Nation where water consumption has had to be rationed. They have witnessed the slow progress of scientists searching for a way to make the abundant waters of our oceans fit for consumption and they know that no practical solution has been found. As the race continues between an adequate, clean water supply and a growing population, we hear an increasing number of dire predictions of a severe water shortage in the years ahead.

And here today we are engaged in a different, though related race. We have made tremendous strides in the industrial and technological development of this Nation but, unfortunately, we have not kept pace in our efforts to control water pollution, a by-product of our rapid industrial advancement. A beginning has been made on all levels of government but all of us know the distance we must go to overcome the damage which has already been done. Today I know I am representing the people of my District and State when I ask my colleagues on this Committee to support these amendments and to redouble our efforts to assure all of our citizens an adequate, pure supply of water, our most important natural resource.

I fully support this amendment to authorize research and demonstration programs for the control of lake pollution, control and prevent mine water drainage and the prevention of water pollution by oil.

Finally, I am hopeful these demonstration and research projects will effectively combine intensified research with intensified industrial efforts to effectively control the sources of pollution in our lakes and streams.

Mr. McCARTHY. The next witness is Mr. Robert Canham, of the Water Pollution Control Federation.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT A. CANHAM, ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND
EDITOR, WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FEDERATION

Mr. CANHAM. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

This statement is made on behalf of the 39 Federal Member Associations in the United States and Puerto Rico. These organizations and others represent approximately 45,000 persons directly concerned with the promotion, management, design, construction, and operation of facilities for the control of water pollution through the proper collection and treatment of domestic and industrial waste waters. The federation is vitally interested in all programs concerning the advancement of knowledge of water pollution control technology, and the