

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,
WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION,
Boston, April 15, 1968.

CONGRESSMAN SILVIO O. CONTE,
*House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN CONTE: In recognition of your interest and desire to see a continuing and progressive water pollution control program in Massachusetts I am calling your attention to two proposed bills to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. These bills are HR 15907 and S 3206 and are virtually similar.

An analysis of HR 15907 is enclosed for your information and interest. This bill in our opinion has many disturbing features which will adversely affect the timely construction of waste treatment facilities in the Commonwealth and completely disrupt the implementation schedules already promulgated as required by the Federal Water Quality Act of 1965.

In order to properly convey our concern over the ramifications of these bills I would suggest contacting the following prior to April 25, 1968:

Congressman George A. Fallon, Chairman,
House Committee on Public Works,
2165 Rayburn Building,
Washington, D.C. 20034; and
Honorable Edmund S. Muskie, Chairman,
Senate Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution Control,
New Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C. 20510.

HR 15907 has been analyzed by representatives of the Connecticut Water Resources Commission, the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission and other neighboring States with general concurrence as to the serious potential problems that may occur by passage of this pending legislation in its present form.

We would be most appreciative of any assistance or advice that you can provide on this matter in order to provide the proper legislative direction for solving the water pollution problem on a unified, equitable and efficient basis.

Very truly yours,

THOMAS C. MCMAHON,
Director.

APRIL 12, 1968.

EVALUATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT

This evaluation is written in order to express the Massachusetts Divisions of Water Pollution Control's concern with HR 15907 and S 3206, similar bills to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act presently being considered by the Congress of the United States.

These bills would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to:

1. Enter into contracts with local public bodies to allow the United States to make payments on the portion of principal and interest costs to cover the applicable Federal share of contribution costs of eligible waste treatment works over a period not to exceed 30 years;
2. make payments on the non-Federal share which would reduce the net effective interest rate to States and localities to a rate reasonably comparable to rates on tax-exempt municipal bonds;
3. provide that, before entering into contracts for each project under this new subsection, the Secretary must first satisfy himself that the project serves either all of a standard metropolitan statistical area, as defined by the Bureau of the Budget, or an area of 125,000 people or more, or a portion of a standard metropolitan statistical area. The Secretary must also be assured that a local public body having jurisdiction over the project has or will establish a system of charges designed to amortize the cost of the project and the cost of operating and maintaining the project over its life and to provide a necessary reserve fund;
4. amend Section 8(d) of the Act. The amendments would continue the current level of appropriation authorizations for construction grants for