

be used and preserved in the public interest, to make and encourage scientific studies concerning wilderness, and to mobilize cooperation in resisting the invasion of wilderness. The Society strives to support all sound programs for the conservation of fish and wildlife, water, scenic, and outdoor recreation resources in order to assure balanced use of our nation's natural resources and the preservation of a quality environment for this generation and generations to come.

S. 2760

We approve of the basic purposes of this bill which will amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act by authorizing research and demonstration programs for the control of lake pollution and acid and other mine drainage and to prevent pollution by oil. The purposes of this Act are desirable and needed. Potential Wilderness System units and scenic rivers in West Virginia are threatened by strip mine pollution. In Appalachia two-thirds of the streams and ponds tested by the Department of the Interior in 1965 were significantly polluted by acid to the point where they could not support fish life.

The federal government must take the leadership in research and demonstration programs and work cooperatively with the states and private industry in applying the methods known today in preventing, removing and controlling pollution of the nation's lakes and streams.

National wildlife refuges and marine and seashore national parks and monuments can be damaged by oil pollution which is extremely detrimental to fish and wildlife. There is a need for a comprehensive program to control and prevent oil pollution in our nation's waterways and territorial seas. The authority of the Secretary of the Interior must be strengthened with respect to enforcement and cleanup.

H.R. 15906

This bill is titled "The Oil and Hazardous Substance Pollution Control Act of 1968." The bill is practically the same as S. 2760 with respect to oil pollution. It does not provide for the Coast Guard to suspend or revoke the license of a master or other licensed officer of any vessel found violating the provisions of the Act. This provision is covered in "subsection (g)" of "Section 19" in S. 2760, and should be included in the legislation.

The proposed "Section 21" titled "Removal of Discharged Matter from the Navigable Waters of the United States and the contiguous zone" is very important and is needed. It defines "matter" as any substance of any description or origin other than oil which when discharged from a vessel or shore installation into any waters in substantial quantities, presents, in the judgment of the Secretary an imminent and substantial hazard to the public health and welfare.

Section 21 provides for almost the same prevention, control, and enforcement as is covered in Section 20 which pertains to oil pollution. We consider that this proposed Section 21 is needed to assist the Secretary of the Interior and other federal agencies in the prevention and control of pollution of the nation's waters. A good example is the extremely urgent need for preventing and controlling pollution in the Great Lakes basin.

H.R. 15907

This is a major piece of legislation on many aspects of water pollution control. It duplicates parts of other bills and substantially amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Its main feature is the change in federal procedure of financing municipal treatment plants. We need to stimulate greater municipal action by using modern day financing methods as proposed.

There is a great need for better regional watershed and metropolitan area planning. The authorized amounts for construction grants appear realistic and we encourage their appropriation by Congress.

The comprehensive Estuaries Study is needed. Estuaries are important for recreational, fish and wildlife, wilderness, and esthetic purposes and deserve more attention. The proposal in H.R. 15907 may duplicate other legislation for estuary studies now under consideration. However, we need a national program for study, use, preservation and development of estuarine areas. The \$1 million for fiscal years 1969 and 1970 may not be adequate for the study.

The strengthening of the research and demonstration features of the Water Pollution Control Act are needed and the provisions listed are good.

We appreciate the opportunity to present our views.