

SUGGESTED AMENDMENT TO OIL POLLUTION BILL

I have one final comment on another bill before your committee, H.R. 15906. I understand a similar bill has already passed the Senate. You may be sure the boating industry will applaud all practicable programs to curb the discharge of oil into tidal or inland waters. This problem of oil dumping is not attributable to recreational boats, and we would urge a redefinition of the term "vessel" to exclude boats under 65 feet in length which are subject to the requirements of the Boating Act of 1940 or the Bonner Act of 1958.

I suggest this, not because small boats should be permitted to dump oil, but only because the language of these bills is so all-inclusive that discharge of ordinary bilge water, or exhaust smoke could constitute a "discharge of oil" and put the small boat owner in jeopardy of prosecution.

Thank you.

Mr. McCARTHY. Thank you very much, Mr. Choate.

Mr. McEwen.

Mr. McEWEN. Thank you, Mr. Choate, for a very fine statement.

Mr. McCARTHY. Thank you very much for this very valuable contribution.

Mr. CHOATE. Thank you.

Mr. McCARTHY. Our final witness is Mr. John J. Gunther of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Mr. Gunther, we appreciate your patience.

THE WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1968

STATEMENT OF JOHN J. GUNTHER ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES AND THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

Mr. GUNTHER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be brief at the close of the day.

I am John J. Gunther. I appear here today on behalf of the National League of Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

SUPPORT STRONG WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAMS

The National League of Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors have strongly supported Federal efforts to aid local governments in the control and abatement of water pollution. We have consistently appeared before this and other Congressional committees urging stronger programs and standards for water pollution control even though we have recognized that these programs would impose increased costs upon municipalities.

NEED FOR FULL FUNDING OF FEDERAL COMMITMENT

Cleaning up our rivers and lakes will be very costly, but it must be done to provide sufficient water for homes and industry, for recreation and for a wide variety of other uses. An increase in present efforts is needed, and municipalities must bear a significant share of these greater efforts. The Secretary of the Interior has estimated that at