

a stimulus and aid to constructive private individual or group effort and meaningful governmental support and action.

D. Create services to assist inland lake communities in *local efforts* to halt the deterioration of the lakes and shorelands and establish a sound program of improvement.

Very truly yours,

JEROME K. FULTON,
Executive Secretary,
Huron River Watershed Council.

It is important, Mr. Chairman, that the Congress in passing legislation take no action to limit the ability of other levels of government to meet their own responsibilities. In this regard, the State of Michigan has recently passed a bond issue to finance a full-scale attack on pollution throughout the State. This approach is based on the assumption that the Federal government would abide by its promises in recent Acts to provide funding and planning assistance.

In November 1966 the Congress provided for State or local prefinancing of the federal share of eligible projects and on this basis, the State of Michigan has, through its bonding proposal, made a full-scale commitment to assume the federal share of projects until federal funds become available at some future point.

This provision has enabled states to make long range plans. It has freed them from the yearly delay and uncertainty involved in the federal budgeting and appropriations processes. It has enabled them to take immediate action on important projects without the delays and possible cutbacks in federal funds during any given year.

The bill before your committee would change this provision and would significantly contract the span and variety within which state and local governments can work to solve their individual pollution problems. At the same time, the bill before the Committee would also exclude from federal coverage all small communities of under 125,000 persons. In fact, it is the small communities that have the scarcest revenue resources to undertake major water treatment systems and, at the same time, it is these communities which are presently most likely to leave their wastes untreated. To exclude them from the coverage of federal programs would be a disastrous mistake and would result in further delay in the nation's efforts to control water pollution.

Another factor to which your Committee should give full consideration is the pollution caused by activities of the federal government itself. Until the government's activities are as example-setting as its rhetoric, there will be little encouragement for local governments and private industry to take action.

One serious example of government created pollution in the Lake Erie area is the disposal of dredging wastes from the industrial docks on the Detroit River and the Rouge River. This dredge material has been dumped into Lake Erie for many years and is contributing greatly to the pollution and eutrophication of that dying lake. Clearly such action must stop and I have worked closely with the Corps of Engineers and the Interior Department in urging alternate disposal of the wastes on dry land. The citizens and communities bordering Lake Erie have expressed their concern about this serious problem and are working hard to find alternative sites for dumping.

This is only one example of government action which results in pollution. Many others exist, and your Committee should give full consideration to ways through which coordination can be attained on the federal government level to halt all such pollution and to bring the federal government up to the standards now being proposed for private industry and communities.

Mr. Chairman, we all recognize water pollution as one of the most serious and pressing problems facing our nation today. If the nation is to be fit for habitation in future generations, we must take action now to halt the killing of our lakes and streams and their vast resources of plant and fish life. If the nation is to maintain pleasant recreational areas, we must take action now to clean up our lakes before the process of eutrophication has made them uninviting. If we are to have fit water for human consumption, we must take action before it is too late. I commend your Committee for its attention to this problem and urge you to take appropriate action to assure future generations of Americans the same vast natural water resources which were given to our generation.