

plying the food man takes from the sea. We cannot afford to destroy any more of it—the human race needs it to survive.

Thank you.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D.C., May 26, 1968.

HON. GEORGE H. FALLON,
*Chairman, Committee on Public Works,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Enclosed is a statement in support of H.R. 16559, a bill I have co-sponsored to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

I would greatly appreciate it if you would include this statement in the record of hearings concerning this and similar legislation.

Thank you for this and for all past courtesies.

Sincerely,

THOMAS P. O'NEILL, Jr.,
Member of Congress.

STATEMENT OF HON. THOMAS P. O'NEILL, JR., EIGHTH DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. Chairman and distinguished Members of the Committee, I appreciate this opportunity to present a statement in favor of strong anti-pollution legislation.

I would like to commend this Committee for the work it has done to bring about a solution to the grave problem of coastal oil pollution.

The large number of accidental and sometimes deliberate dumping of oil on both the high seas and territorial waters threatens major pollution damage to some of our finest beaches, to fish and waterfowl along our coasts.

In 1967, several incidents involving oil tankers caused damage to some of Europe's finest beaches and did great harm to seafood resources. We are now facing the prospect of similar injury to our Nation's coastal recreation areas and fish beds.

Oil tankers now account for more than 40% of our ocean traffic. We should act now to provide the necessary machinery to prevent damage from the accidental or deliberate spilling of oil.

We must delegate the authority to have oil slicks eliminated immediately and have a legal deterrent to prohibit the discharge of oil upon the navigable waters of the United States, or adjoining shorelines, or into the waters of the contiguous zone.

H.R. 16559, which I have co-sponsored, fills the need for strong legislation, and would provide the machinery for immediate act to prevent injury from oil discharge. By instantly delegating authority to the Secretary of the Interior and to the Coast Guard, this legislation would insure the elimination of oil slicks while investigations as to cause were being conducted. The fatal delay that often occurs while blame is being laid, would be avoided.

I urge the Committee to give favorable consideration to this much-needed legislation.

Thank you.

VIEWS AND COMMENTS ON H.R. 15907, THE WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
ACT OF 1968, BY JAMES B. COULTER

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, I am James B. Coulter, Assistant Commissioner for Environmental Health Service, Maryland State Department of Health. I am pleased to have this opportunity to comment and present my views on H.R. 15907, the Water Quality Improvement Act of 1968.

Citizens of Maryland treasure their water resources which have contributed so abundantly to the wealth and enjoyment of the nation as well as to themselves. It is not surprising then, that the State has moved aggressively to curb water pollution and has shown an unstinting willingness to meet the cost of pollution control measures.

For 20 years the program has improved step by step, always moving in the direction of a stronger Federal-State and local effort. County commissioners have supported State and local legislation with unanimity and consistency seldom seen on any issue. The State Legislature has faced controversial issues and adopted