

measure after measure, clearly accepting the fact that water pollution control is a State as well as a local responsibility. Maryland's congressional delegation over the years has rallied to the cause and made major contributions to the progressive evolution of the Federal Water Pollution Control Program. I am pleased to note that along with Mr. Blatnik, Mr. Fallon of Maryland is a cosponsor of H.R. 15907, the Water Quality Improvement Act of 1968.

In this atmosphere of joint local, State and Federal effort, the step by step improvements in Federal legislation have stimulated corresponding improvements at the local and State levels. At this time, Maryland's program includes the following salient features:

1. Strong regulatory and enforcement powers are exercised when necessary at the State level.

2. County commissioners are authorized to create countywide sanitary authorities and more than two-thirds of the counties now have such an arrangement in effect.

3. It is recognized that planning for water and sewer services is a responsibility of elected officials who must make major financial commitments to implement the plans; therefore, a State law requires that comprehensive plans be prepared at the county level and approved by the State as a condition to financial support after 1970.

4. As they are developed, State agencies coordinate county plans as the first step toward the development of regional and river basin programs.

5. Every wastewater treatment plant in the State, industrial as well as municipal, must be under the supervision of a certified competent superintendent by 1970.

6. This year, the State sponsored the training of more than 200 treatment plant superintendents at evening courses in junior colleges and a curriculum for a two-year, full-time course is being developed and will be put into use in 1969.

7. The State shares the cost of sewage treatment plant construction and gives the county commissioners and town councils a guaranteed financing formula that they can depend on.

In some respects the Water Quality Improvement Act of 1968 would further strengthen Maryland's program. The provision for a comprehensive estuaries study is especially welcome. Knowledge in this area is lacking and is sorely needed in Maryland where a large proportion of extremely valuable waters fall into the tidewater and wetlands categories to be included in the study. I wonder, however, if the magnitude of the task has not been grossly underrated. In Maryland alone, we have more than 4,000 miles of tidewater shoreline and approximately 340,000 acres of wetlands, much of which would be included in the estuaries study. A more realistic date for the final report might be January 30, 1980 instead of the 1970 date proposed in Section 5(c). Likewise, I am of the opinion that the cost of the total study, considering all of the estuaries of the United States, will be \$25,000,000 rather than the \$2,000,000 authorized in Section 5(e).

I strongly endorse the provisions of Section 6. The continuation of viable research, demonstrations, investigations, training, and information elements of the program at the Federal level are vital to the efficiency of State and local programs. A person dares not dwell on the duplication of effort and competition for scarce technical talent that would develop if each State were forced to duplicate these activities now centralized at the Federal level.

I regret to inform you, however, that in my opinion certain proposed changes in the construction grant provisions will not benefit our joint efforts in Maryland. In fact, the proposed changes would almost certainly cause confusion and serve to retard the rate of progress which is being made.

Over the years, the construction grant program of the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration has been highly successful. In discussions with other Federal agencies we have often cited it as a desirable example. Even though funds appropriated to support the Federal construction grant program have never been great enough to match the willingness of Maryland's communities to construct water pollution abatement works, the grants have had a powerful stimulating effect. The 1966 amendments were particularly helpful. The provision for repayment of State funds advanced to cover deficiencies in Federal grant offers made it possible for Maryland to arrange a financing formula combining State and Federal funds designed to eliminate our backlog needs for municipal sewage treatment plants by 1971.