

The Department's request reflects our internal planning and represents a shift in emphasis from R. & D. to increased application of technology. The scope of S. 991 is indicative of how closely the Congress has followed our progress. We are encouraged by this expression of interest and the continued support of our program by this committee.

As we examine the water problems we face now and those that loom ahead in the remainder of this century, the prospects for supplying many parts of our Nation with the necessary quantities of good water will be greatly enhanced by desalting. The fact is that the increasing use of water caused by our continuing population growth, accompanied by expanding industrial and agricultural activity, will turn many of our presently available fresh waters brackish. This is already happening today in some parts of the Southwest.

Urbanologists foresee enormous metropolitan areas covering much of the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Desalting advances will make the nearby oceans a source of fresh water to meet these anticipated demands.

It is not necessary to search the future for any mandate for this technology. There are many communities, most of them small, whose water supplies do not now meet EPA standards.

Our task, then, is to continue the development of the technology which soon will be urgently required, and to apply the technology we have already developed to solve current water supply problems. This is the purpose of the legislation you are considering today.

The authorization to continue the desalting program is justified by several factors:

1. In the light shed by our recently increased knowledge of our water resources and environment, there is a clear indication that desalting technology will be required to provide new sources of water, to reuse water, to remove pollutants from water, and to recover valuable byproducts.

2. Government participation is required because of the complexity of our water resources system, which inherently involves values above and beyond economic considerations. This participation must include coordination, information, support of desalting technology to insure that it will be ready when required, as well as assistance to communities to apply the technology, encouragement of technical and managerial innovation leading to a stable, broadly based desalting industry.

3. The Federal Government and potential users must keep informed on the current capabilities and the future prospects of the technology to develop long-range plans for the optimum utilization of resources and maximum protection of the environment.

4. Desalting can achieve any desired degree of water renovation required by the intensive use of water due to population growth.

5. Desalting will provide new water as we approach the limits on the quantity we can impound, and produce a reliable high quality supply.

6. The desalting program must continue uninterrupted because considerable time is required for technology refinement, water supply planning, and plant construction.

The bills before the Congress would primarily extend the existing authority of the desalting program. The Department request, how-