

Such power on the part of the Secretary plainly was not contemplated by the Congress when it authorized the study which underlies these proposals. The exercise of this power, moreover, plainly would constitute a sufficient "taking" of the owners' property rights to at least raise serious Constitutional questions.

We trust that this letter will be helpful to you and to the Committee in your deliberations on this critical matter. If we may be of further assistance to you or the Committee, we would welcome and be most appreciative of the opportunity.

Cordially,

W. L. CARTER,  
*Executive Director.*

Senator METCALF. The next witness is Mr. Hugo E. Johnson, president of the American Iron Ore Association, and he also is accompanied by a group. We will be glad to have you bring your group forward, Mr. Johnson.

**STATEMENT OF HUGO E. JOHNSON, PRESIDENT, AMERICAN IRON ORE ASSOCIATION; ACCOMPANIED BY JOHN D. BOENTJE, JR., PRESIDENT, PITTSBURGH PACIFIC CO.; AND S. W. SUNDEEN, GENERAL MANAGER, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, CLEVELAND-CLIFFS IRON CO.**

Mr. JOHNSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, I am Hugo E. Johnson, president of the American Iron Ore Association. I am a registered professional engineer and for the past 15 years, I have been on the staff of the American Iron Ore Association where, for the past 10 years, I have had the honor of serving as president.

The member firms of the American Iron Ore Association mine over 95 percent of the iron ore mined in the United States.

We appear here today in opposition to Senate bill, S. 3132, Surface Mining Reclamation Act of 1968. We oppose the adoption of this legislation because we feel that it is unnecessary and unwarranted and that the request for such legislation is based upon inaccurate and exaggerated statements in the report entitled "Surface Mining and Our Environment," which are not representative of the actual facts.

Before we proceed with our statement, we would like to point out that we have followed closely the work of the American Mining Congress in connection with this important legislation and we endorse the statement presented here yesterday by their representative, Mr. J. S. Abdnor.

In the interest of giving to you and your committee a firsthand report on how this proposed legislation, S. 3132, may affect iron ore mining operations and why we oppose this legislation, we have asked representatives of two of our member firms to present their views to this committee.

Both of these gentlemen are well qualified to discuss this important legislation and to give to this committee the views of two important firms whose operations in mining iron ore are substantially different, yet would be seriously affected by this legislation.

On my left is Mr. John D. Boentje, Jr., who has been actively engaged in the iron ore mining industry for over 20 years. Trained as a mining engineer, he started his career in iron ore mining shortly after his service in the U.S. Navy. Today he serves as president of Pittsburgh Pacific Co. in Minnesota.