Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for the privilege of appearing before you.

Senator METCALF. Thank you, Mr. Sundeen.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. Chairman and members of this committee, I would like to close our presentation here today by pointing out to you with all the emphasis I can command so that you fully understand the reasons why we object to this type of legislation.

1. The type of operations carried out by the iron ore mining industry are of a localized and extremely long-lived operation totally unlike the coal mine and reclaim operation that characterizes modern-day mining technology seen in the eastern part of our country.

2. Iron ore mining operations today, particularly with their new lean ore and taconite breakthrough, do not and cannot lead themselves to legislation such as proposed in S. 3132.

3. Such legislation would hamper and interfere with the ability of the iron ore mining industry to serve the Nation as it has historically done in the time of emergency.

4. The report, "Surface Mining and Our Environment" does not accurately reflect the mining industry.

The Secretary's report "Surface Mining and Our Environment" in his statement on page 52, confirms the fact we wish to emphasize, that iron ore mining is of a localized type of long-lived duration when he says:

> Iron ore open pits extend over large areas and usually reach considerable depths. The Mesabi Range of Minnesota is an iron ore formation 120 miles long and about 3 miles wide. In the next 100 years the range could become a giant canal or lake. The minerals in the formation are chemically inert and the terrain is flat; thus the mining operations cause little or no water pollution.
>
> Many of the pits have steep highwalls which, in places, are dangerous and impede the movement of wildlife and humans. The tremendous piles of low-grade, or "lean" ore that dot the countryside may either be considered an attractive feature in an otherwise monotonous landscape or as unsightly, depending on one's viewpoint.

His statement is illustrative of iron ore mining operations and his emphasis on the fact that we cause little or no water pollution is an important point.

Further, his emphasis on the beauty or lack of beauty of the low-grade or lean ore stockpiles is of special interest. These are a result of what we believe to be good mining practices and an important conservation policy but we wish to point out that they must be preserved in an orderly fashion and segregated from other materials since they represent iron ore reserves of the future when economic and technology permit their use.

Major iron ore deposits rarely show any sharp line of demarcation between presently economic iron ore and uneconomic iron ore. This is different from many other mineral deposits which show a sharp line of demarcation and which lend themselves to development and completion in a predictable manner.

The iron ore mining industry has many mines—and I emphasize "many"—which had been mined for 40 or 50 years. These are now being reopened for the purpose of mining and upgrading the lean ores remaining. This is a characteristic of iron ore mining which we wish to strongly emphasize.

We now see a completely new iron ore mining industry developing in the United States because of this important fact. For example, in