

We believe that recognition of this problem is such and is growing at a rate which eliminates the need or the interest of Federal agencies in the problem.

I might add there that the interest of the Federal Government, we would think, would continue in the area of research and technical information.

The 31st Legislature of the State of Oklahoma has adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 83, "Expressing Opposition to Proposed Land Reclamation Legislation Now Pending Before the Congress of the United States."

I ask that a copy of this resolution be inserted in the record at this point.

Senator BURDICK. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The document referred to follows:)

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, SECOND SESSION OF THE 31ST LEGISLATURE

*By Massad of the Senate and Mountford of the House*

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 83

*As Introduced*

A Concurrent Resolution Relating to Mining; Expressing Opposition to Proposed Land Reclamation Legislation Now Pending Before the Congress of the United States; Memorializing Congress to Recognize the Capacity and Intent of the Several States to Develop Adequate Solutions to Problems Associated With Open Cut Mining; and Directing Distribution

WHEREAS, proposed legislation is now being considered by the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States Senate whereby the Federal Government and agencies thereof would be assigned primary authority and responsibility with respect to the reclamation of areas subjected to open cut or strip mining practices and operations in the several states; and

WHEREAS, during recent years more and more states have recognized the problems created by open cut mining and, individually and collectively, have begun to examine various methods of solving these problems; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Legislature and the State's mining industry became actively interested in the problems of open cut land reclamation early in 1965 and, through close cooperation between the industry and the Legislature, a strong "Open Cut Land Reclamation Act" was enacted into law in April, 1967 and became effective January 1, 1968; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma "Open Cut Land Reclamation Act" applies to all surface-mined minerals and gives broad latitude to the administering agency with respect to the development of rules and regulations for its effective enforcement and implementation; and

Whereas, our state's mining industry has displayed its willingness to cooperate fully in accomplishing the purposes of the "Open Cut Land Reclamation Act"; and

Whereas, the several states concerned with the problems of open cut land reclamation are moving, through participation in the Inter-state Mining Compact and through state legislation, to develop adequate solutions to such problems; and

Whereas, it is a basic principle of our system of government that local problems should be met locally, and only when these problems are not being met by the responsible local authorities and, simultaneously, have ramifications of regional or national scope, should the Federal Government intervene.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate of the Second Session of the Thirty-First Oklahoma Legislature, the House of Representatives concurring therein:

SECTION 1. That in view of the efforts of Oklahoma and other states affected by problems of open cut land reclamation to effectively solve these problems through their own individual and collective action, the Congress of the United States be and hereby is respectfully memorialized to recognize the capacity and intent of the several states to expeditiously and effectively solve such problems by their own efforts.