

Senator METCALF. Senator Bartlett has forwarded a letter to the committee from the president of the Alaska Miners Association. Without objection, it will be printed at this point in the hearing record.
(The letter referred to follows:)

ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION,
Anchorage, Alaska, April 3, 1968.

HON. E. L. BARTLETT,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BARTLETT: Senate bill 3132 has been introduced in Congress at the request of the Department of Interior. This proposed legislation provides very stringent control over all surface mining. The Alaska Miners Association is concerned about this legislation in that it does not take into consideration Alaska's unique problem—huge areas of swamp land covering perma-frost and silt.

As you may know, only 12,300 acres of land in Alaska has been disturbed by placer, strip and open-pit mining. In addition to producing more than 1½ billion dollars worth of mineral wealth, this "disturbed" land was transformed from muskeg to well-drained sand and gravel areas. At Nome, the airport, FAA buildings, and Beltz Vocational School are all located on worked-out placer ground as it is ideally suited for the erection of permanent improvements. Near Fairbanks the satellite tracking station is built in a valley on worked-out placer ground because reliable foundations were needed.

The streams that drain the muskeg areas prevalent in most of Interior Alaska frequently are naturally polluted by organic material and by intermittent flooding and caving of silt banks. Placer mine tailings filter and aerate streams that flow through them.

Underground water is obtainable from wells in valleys that were formerly frozen and incapable of producing water.

A new growth of alder and aspen replaces the virgin cover of muskeg and black spruce.

The Museums and Universities of the world have been enriched with the fossil remains of animals recovered from the frozen mucks.

We urge you to oppose S. 3132. Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

LEO MARK ANTHONY.

Senator METCALF. Did Roger Tippy come in? Mr. Tippy, you are the witness that we have been waiting for.

Mr. TIPPY. My apologies, sir.

Senator METCALF. No; I believe that unless there are some other witnesses—and if there are any other witnesses that are on the list and haven't filed their statements, and so forth, please identify yourself to Mr. French—on my list Mr. Tippy, you are the last witness. We are especially pleased to come to the end of the long list. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF ROGER TIPPY, ASSISTANT CONSERVATION DIRECTOR, IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE

Mr. TIPPY. Mr. Chairman, I am Roger Tippy, assistant conservation director of the Izaak Walton League of America, a national organization of persons interested in conservation and outdoor recreation. I thank you for this opportunity to present our views on the relationship of surface mining to environmental quality and I can summarize this rather briefly since so many words have been spoken on both sides of the issue already.

Senator METCALF. You have waited so long and so patiently we feel you are entitled to use as much time as you want.

Mr. TIPPY. We principally feel this is a serious problem today because of contour strip mining for coal. Some of our members in other