

Suffice to say, I strongly urge authorization of funds for the Norwalk River Basin project for one very good reason: completion of this project would be a definite investment in the future of the area in question.

As you know, too, the project has been favorably endorsed by the Departments of Interior, Agriculture, Transportation, Commerce, and Health, Education, and Welfare.

The Bureau of the Budget likewise has registered no objection to the project which also carries the recommendation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

In other words, all parties concerned believe the Norwalk River Basin project should be authorized the funds necessary for its completion.

If you permit a few personal observations, I would like to say simply that completion of the Norwalk River Basin project will put an end to property loss in the future, will prevent possible loss of life, and will eliminate threats to the public health via contamination.

His honor, the mayor of Norwalk, Frank N. Zullo, joins me in urging authorization of funds for this project, as does Hon. Vincent J. Tito, Sr., first selectman of the town of Wilton.

Mayor Zullo and Selectman Tito both regard completion of the Norwalk River Basin project as of vital concern to their respective communities and the area in general.

They point out that the area surrounding the Norwalk River is one which is developing rapidly.

The Norwalk Harbor, for example, into which the Norwalk River flows, is regarded as one of the best on the eastern coast.

Geographically, the Norwalk River is located in the center of Fairfield County—it is one of the fastest growing areas in the entire Nation.

It therefore becomes urgent that everything possible must be done to protect and insure continued favorable growth of this region. Completion of the Norwalk River Basin project will constitute one giant stride in that direction.

The entire economy of the area will benefit from completion of the project.

It should also be kept in mind that completion of the project will prevent repetition of the situation that developed when there was a severe flood in the mid-1950's. Not only was much actual damage caused at that time, but the flood likewise created some psychological problems for owners of the land affected.

Authorization of funds to complete the Norwalk River Basin project would remove the apprehensions and anxieties of area residents and business, thereby resulting in a better climate and atmosphere for continued orderly growth and development.

Mr. JONES. Thank you, Mr. Irwin.

Colonel Seidel, proceed, sir.

PARK RIVER BASIN, CONN. AND N.Y.

Colonel SEIDEL. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, this report concerns improvement of the existing project for Park River in Hartford, Conn., in the interest of flood control. It is responsive to a resolution by the Senate Public Works Committee.