

You have heard the testimony of the Corps of Engineers and other technical witnesses will appear. Therefore, I would like to confine my remarks primarily to the desire of the people of the 8th District of Virginia for the construction of the dam and to the general need for this project. Not only has it been recommended by the Corps of Engineers, Secretary of the Army, and the interested Federal agencies, but it has the approval of the Governor of Virginia, the Council of the City of Fredericksburg, the Boards of Supervisors of the Counties of Stafford, King George, Lancaster, Richmond, Essex, Louisa, Spotsylvania, and Prince William; the Rappahannock Area Development Commission; the American Viscose Division of FMC Corp., the largest employer in my district whose facilities are located a few miles from the proposed dam and is a water-using industry; and an overwhelming majority of the citizens of the area.

Other county boards not within my district recommending the project are Orange and Middlesex. The only board within the 20 counties in my district opposed to the project, to my knowledge, is the Board of Supervisors of Fauquier County, even though its water authority has requested water from the dam.

The wide support of people in the area for this project is indicated in the report of the hearings of the Subcommittee on Flood Control, Rivers and Harbors of the Senate Committee on Public Works held September 19, 20, and 21 of last year.

In order to be sure that these spokesmen were representing the feelings of the people as a whole, however, I included an item in a questionnaire sent to all homes in my district last year inquiring as to whether they favored the proposed dam. More than 13 percent of the 150,000 homes responded and 83 percent indicated their support of the project, with 17 percent indicating disapproval.

Based upon a breakdown of the individual counties, support for the dam ranged from 63 percent in favor in Fauquier County to 90 percent in favor in Caroline County. Among the nearby counties King George favored the project by 89 percent, Prince William and King and Queen by 88 percent, Stafford and Westmoreland Counties by 87 percent and Spotsylvania and the city of Fredericksburg by 86 percent. Periodic flooding commencing in 1889, with the maximum flood record in 1942, apparently prompted the original desire for this project.

However, increases in population in the area have brought about the need for more water, and this need may now even overshadow flood control. With Metropolitan Washington, including large populations in both Maryland and Virginia, looking to the Potomac and its tributaries for water, those counties within Virginia below Fairfax must look to the Rappahannock and to Salem Church Reservoir. One of these counties, Prince William, is the fastest growing county in our state, having increased from approximately 50,000 inhabitants when the last census was taken to approximately 100,000 today.

Of course this committee is well aware of the need and desirability for an adequate supply of clean water, for salinity control, and for additional recreational facilities in the fast growing northern Virginia area. In fact, there is an acute shortage of scenic parks and recreational facilities throughout the entire eastern part of the United States. Other witnesses will detail these needs.