

to the area. A project such as the Salem Church Reservoir could have this magnetic attraction to provide a more enjoyable way of life for everyone using the facilities. The Rappahannock Area Development Commission established under Virginia State Law as a regional planning commission, because of the tremendous benefits which it can foresee from the construction of the reservoir, has by resolution endorsed this project.

Next, Mr. Chairman, I have a letter from John A. Nere, president, Fredericksburg Area Chamber of Commerce, Fredericksburg, Va., which reads as follows:

Over fifteen years ago the Fredericksburg Area Chamber of Commerce endorsed the then proposed Salem Church Dam project.

Today, as it was then, our most pressing need in the Rappahannock River Basin is water conservation. Each year this need becomes more critical.

To help lessen the critical nature of this need, local governing bodies have been working to the limits of their capabilities on local conservation projects. This will help provide for our immediate water needs.

However, as you no doubt know, maximal water conservation in the Rappahannock River Basin is far beyond local capabilities. Therefore, we once again wish to go on record as wholeheartedly endorsing the Salem Church project.

We are deeply grateful for all you have been doing to aid and support this project up to this point and we are confident of your continued efforts.

Next, Mr. Chairman, I have a statement from Paul W. Manns, a member of the Senate of Virginia representing the city of Fredericksburg and seven surrounding counties which reads as follows:

I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you in support of the report of the Corps of Engineers on the Salem Church Reservoir Project.

To some people it would seem needless to take your time to tell more about a project which has been officially described as "feasible, economically justified, and represent(ing) the best development of the site at this time." I am keenly aware that you have many worthy projects throughout the nation which vie for your attention. However, I believe you will be especially interested in the Salem Church Reservoir project since it involves the people in the metropolitan area of the Nation's Capital.

The Rappahannock River, in running through Virginia from the Blue Ridge mountains to the Chesapeake Bay, has the potential to serve many people more adequately than it does now. It can become the center of outdoor recreation for thousands of people; for thousands of others it can provide employment through new industry promotion. Many people who depend upon oyster production for their livelihood could be assured of a more constant and abundant supply of oysters; for the people who can or might in the future be served by community water systems the river has the potential to provide the water which they will need for domestic and business purposes. But we are speaking here only of potential. The Rappahannock is practically undeveloped. For the people to derive the benefits which I have described, the multi-purpose reservoir project now under consideration must be constructed.

The dam and reservoir will provide the only practical method of alleviating the hazard of floods to lives and property and of improving the over-all quality of the waters of the river.

Many alternates have been considered; many years and many dollars have been devoted to studies; the benefits of the project and the needs of the people have been fully assessed. Conclusions have been drawn and recommendations have been made. The Salem Church Reservoir project is needed, and it is economically justified. On behalf of the people whom I represent, I respectfully request your favorable consideration of the project.

Next, Mr. Chairman, I have a statement from George C. Rawlings, Jr., who represents the city of Fredericksburg and the counties of Spotsylvania and Stafford in the Virginia House of Delegates, addressed to you, dated June 20, 1968, and it reads as follows:

During seven political campaigns in the past four years, I have had an opportunity to discuss the construction of the dam with the voters in my area, and there are no "ifs" "ands" or "buts" in their support. They are not disturbed