STATEMENT OF WILLIAM F. MATSON, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER, ALLEGHENY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., IN SUPPORT OF S. 2207

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, my name is William F. Matson. I am Executive Vice President and General Manager of the Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., which represents 13 electric distribution cooperatives throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Each of these cooperatives is owned by the consumers they serve, therefore the interest of Allegheny is a consumer-interest. Each co-op is managed and operated by a separate Board of Directors elected by its member-consumers. These systems, although financed by loans from the federal government, are incorporated under the laws of Pennsylvania.

I am submitting this testimony for the purpose of placing our organization on record in vigorous suport of immediate authorization and construction of the Salem Church Project as recommended by the Chief of Engineers.

Our membership has long encouraged and supported the authorization and construction of multiple-purpose river basin projects throughout the country, where they are economically justified and where hydroelectric installations, included in them will provide rural electric systems with abundant low-cost electricity.

The electric power industry is the fastest growing major industry in the United States. The quantity of electricity used by the consumers of rural electric cooperatives is doubling about every seven years—faster than the national average. Although now there appears to be an abundant supply of electricity available through private power companies, an ever-increasing load growth pattern is forcing both private utilities and rural electrics to search out and develop more economical sources of power.

Construction of the Salem Church Project would effect economies for both co-ops and private utilities. We recognize, of course, that the success of the project depends upon revenues from power sales, but we want to make clear the fact that every kilowatt of Salem Church power can be marketed the instant it is put on the line. No one can justifiably claim otherwise, although it is a familiar tactic for detractors of a multi-purpose project which includes hydro-electric power to claim that the power from it will not be marketable. This claim is probably made on the theory that if the power revenues so important to feasibility and payout can be placed in doubt, the whole project can be cast in shadow.

The marketing of Salem Church power in accordance with the preference provisions of Federal power legislation would confer many benefits on our neighboring rural electric systems in Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland and Delaware. It would supplement their presently exhausted allocations of Federal power and restore the wholesale "yardstick" to the area, benefiting all consumers.

The struggle to bring low cost electricity has been a long, and hard one, but we feel the development of the Salem Church project would be a desirable step in the realization of this beneficial goal.

We respectfully urge and request that S. 2207 be favorably reported by this Subcommittee at the earliest possible date.

TOWN OF CULPEPER, VA.,
June 19, 1968.

Hon. ROBERT E. JONES,
Chairman, Flood Control Subcommittee, House Public Works Committee, Rayburn Building, Washington, D.C.

Dear CONGRESSMAN JONES: It has been called to our attention that the House Public Works Committee will hold a hearing on June 20, 1968, regarding the proposed Salem Church Dam Project.

We have also been advised by Mrs. Augusta Peterson, Clerk of the House Public Works Committee, that all the testimony taken before the Senate subcommittee on Flood Control-Rivers & Harbors on September 21, 1967, will also become a part of and will act as testimony before your committee on June 20, 1968, on the same subject. The writer personally presented the testimony on behalf of the Town Council before the September 21, 1967, committee hearing.

Therefore, the Town Council wishes to go on record, and have this letter be made a part of the June 20, 1968, proceedings, to reiterate our opposition to the construction of the Salem Church Dam at the 240 ft. level. We further wish to state that our position is exactly the same as that expressed before the subcommittee on September 21, 1967.

Sincerely,

CLAUDE W. HUFFMAN,
Town Manager.