

**STATEMENT OF HON. EDITH GREEN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF OREGON**

Mrs. GREEN. Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank the members of the committee for providing me with the opportunity to testify in favor of H.R. 16392, a bill which I introduced, which would authorize the Army Corps of Engineers to initiate a 3-year appraisal report of our national tidal and great Lakes shoreline.

Mr. Chairman, the length of our national and Great Lake shoreline is in excess of 93,000 miles * * * one-half the distance to the moon * * * almost four times the circumference of this planet. Thirty of our States, including my own State of Oregon, have tidal or Great Lakes shorelines, most of which are threatened by a day-by-day erosion process which is destroying thousands of acres of land and costing the American people tens of millions of dollars annually. Nonetheless, despite the damage and the expense resulting from this insidious process, so little is actually known about it that we cannot even make a precise estimate of the total cost of annual damage, nor take effective action to control it.

Losses result not only in the decrease of dollars and land acreage, but also reduce the potential of this Nation in agriculture, industry, and recreation. These losses, of course, diminish both the State and local tax base, destroy thousands of acres of forest and farmland, and increasingly make our beaches unfit for recreational purposes * * * and this is no mean item when one considers that 25 percent of our population lives within 50 miles of the coast and this population is expected to double within the next 30 years.

Coastal erosion is a national problem and demands national concern. Every region of our nation is scarred by this process. Tillamook Bay, Oreg., has been the site of very considerable erosion damages. Over 1,000 acres of valuable oyster beds have been destroyed, and segments of the Tillamook Bay have been engulfed by the sea, resulting in the destruction of houses, roads, and utility lines. Our neighboring State of California has lost over 700 feet of shoreline at Port Hueneme. Moreover, highways have been destroyed in Mississippi; Ohio has suffered damages in excess of \$18.5 million over the last 20-year period, and countless homes, tourist cottages, canneries, bridges, cafes, and other structures are being eaten up in State after State by this treacherous phenomenon.

We simply cannot afford to ignore these losses. Much of this damage could be prevented by proper protective structures, but remedial action demands information about the exact nature of the problem, so that we can take steps toward an ultimate solution. The Federal Government has taken some action to help mitigate the problem of coastal erosion and does finance research in this field. The Corps of Engineers, a pioneer in this field, maintains the Coastal Engineering Center in Washington, and is doing research on the mechanics of the erosion process. The corps also provides assistance to the States by undertaking studies of erosion in specific regions upon the State's request. Since 1930, a number of States have taken part in this program; and, to date, approximately 23,000 miles of shoreline have been, or are being studied.