

interim project on the Red River, the interim report on the Red River below Denison Dam, has had the concurrence of the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, the Chief of Engineers, the Bureau of the Budget, and we recommend and urge this committee to continue with the study of authorization in its entirety.

The project was heard this month by the Senate Public Works Committee and is in the process of being marked up at this time.

We urge this committee to adopt the entire project and to act with haste so that this project may be included in this year's authorization bill.

The Red River is the last major river basin in the United States to be comprehensively developed.

We urge this committee to follow through and adopt this well-worth-while project.

I have seven witnesses accompanying me, in all, who will file their statements and make a brief presentation for the committee. We know that you are pressed for time and we do not want to impose on this time limit.

Mr. BLATNIK. Mr. Matthias, would you want to present your witnesses at this time?

Mr. MATTHIAS. Mr. C. A. Fairbanks of Alexandria, who is president of the Red River Valley Association.

Mr. BLATNIK. Mr. Fairbanks?

Mr. FAIRBANKS. Mr. Chairman, it is a pleasure for me to come before your committee this morning.

I am president of the Red River Valley Association who has been working on this project for some 20 years, and we have passed all the tests all along the road and, without taking up any more your time, I just ask you please, sir, to give us a favorable vote on this.

Mr. BLATNIK. Without objection, your statement will appear in its entirety in the record at this point. We appreciate your consideration and also are fully aware of the intensive and careful effort you have made on this project and your study and presentation.

Mr. MATTHIAS. Our next witness is Mr. Calvin Watts, Louisiana Department of Public Works, assistant director, of Baton Rouge, La.

Mr. BLATNIK. Mr. Watts, we are happy to have you.

Mr. WATTS. Thank you. We have filed our statements previously with the committee.

I am from the State of Louisiana, which supports this project as recommended by the Chief of Engineers.

One short statement I would like to make is that the estimated cost to the State of Louisiana—the local cost is about \$23.5 million on this project. We have already passed a statewide constitutional amendment setting up the Red River Waterway District along the Red River in Louisiana composed of the seven parishes or counties bordering on the river.

It has a commission that has already been appointed. It has tax authority to impose taxes on these properties to meet our obligation of \$23.5 million on the project.

We recommend authorization of the project and state we are ready to put up our proportionate share in the State of Louisiana.

Mr. BLATNIK. Thank you, Mr. Watts.

Mr. MATTHIAS. Our next witness is Mr. Douglas Ataway, publisher and editor of the Shreveport Journal, to speak for Louisiana.