

to do whatever we can to preserve the few stretches of parks and open water that remain in this densely settled community.

The Northern Virginia Conservation Council expresses its thanks for being permitted to submit a statement, and applauds the subcommittee on its interest and concern in this matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. JEAN R. PACKARD, *President.*

GARDEN CLUB OF BELLE HAVEN,
Alexandria, Va., June 17, 1968.

Hon. HENRY S. REUSS,
Representative from Wisconsin,
House Office Building, Washington, D.C.
(Attention of Mr. Frank Jackman).

DEAR SIR: We, the Garden Club of Belle Haven, as a group of 90 resident citizens most concerned, wish to appeal to you to continue your fight against unnecessary commercial depredations of the Hunting Creek area. Your concern has reflected our unspoken but heartfelt worry about the breaking up of a beautiful natural preserve for sordid financial gains.

May we ask that you continue to use your efforts against the selfish group who would grab special advantages while remaining unconcerned about the future of Hunting Creek-Potomac preserve—the only area for the ducks which summer and winter here.

We know your concern; let us tell you how much we appreciate your special concern and how much we will support your efforts to preserve an endangered area of our National Capital.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. DANIEL M. ROCHE, *President.*

ALEXANDRIA, VA., June 18, 1968.

Hon. ROBERT E. JONES,
Chairman, Natural Resources and Power Subcommittee, Rayburn Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: For 14 years my wife and I have enjoyed watching the wild birds from the balcony of our apartment. In season the long-legged wading birds congregate in the shallow water of the estuary along the bank south of Jones Point. The migratory ducks at times congregate further out in the mouth of the estuary.

A map, enclosed herewith, furnished me by the district engineer as an enclosure to a letter of May 29, 1968, carries an arrow pointing to the northeast bulkhead of the approved Hoffman fill with the following notation: "Bulkhead will be installed if the adjacent land is not filled simultaneously."

An additional notation on the map shows "adjacent land," in fact all the northeastern part of the Hunting Creek estuary, an area approximately 1,860 feet by 1,200 feet, as being: "Property of Hunting Towers Operating Co."

These two notations do not appear on the original map accompanying the Hoffman application but do appear as I have said on map furnished with notice of approval, May 29, 1968.

It is obvious when Hoffman Associates and Hunting Towers Operating Co. have worked their will, the day of fowl and fish in the Hunting Creek estuary will be finished.

Representative Reuss is absolutely right in saying that if the logic behind these applications is followed the Potomac will be filled to the borders of a narrow ship channel.

In the June 13, 1968, issue of the Journal Standard, a representative of the Secretary of the Army is quoted as saying: "The Corps of Engineers saw no reason for denying the application, and neither did we." Actually, many witnesses presented many valid reasons for rejecting the application, at the Engineers meeting February 21, 1968, in the Alexandria council chamber.

Importance seems to have been given only to the pecuniary interests of Hoffman Associates.

I would suggest that the committee go into the legal responsibilities of the Corps of Engineers, particularly whether the corps is required by law to grant all applications to which other Government agencies have not objected, provided no interference is caused to navigation.