

a national study of estuaries and to develop recommendations for the protection of outstanding estuaries has been approved by the House and is pending in the Senate.

The testimony developed in the House shows that the Nation's estuaries are being altered, destroyed, and reduced in productivity at an alarming rate. These areas, where fresh water meets the sea, are extremely productive for wildlife and fish that are sought for sport, commercial, and other purposes.

The comments made by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife show that the Hunting Creek area is a wintering ground for diving ducks and other waterfowl. Additionally, that stretch of the river is used by such valuable commercial and sport fishes as striped bass, alewives, and white perch.

We believe that the committee would be entirely consistent with congressional and public opinion regarding estuaries if it would find that the permit should be withdrawn. Such a recommendation would help assure that the estuary of the Potomac is not to be further reduced in productivity by shoreline encroachments.

Sincerely,

C. R. GUTERMUTH, *Vice President.*

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION,
Washington, D.C., June 24, 1968.

Hon. ROBERT E. JONES,
Chairman, Natural Resources and Power Subcommittee, Committee on Government Operations, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN JONES: Under resolution and policy adopted by the National Wildlife Federation, which represents approximately 2½ million members, we are very much concerned about the permit which was issued by the Corps of Engineers to bulkhead and fill a portion of the Potomac Estuary in the Hunting Creek area near Alexandria, Va.

As part of the hearing held by your subcommittee on Monday, June 24, 1968, we submit this letter in opposition to said permit and urge that the Corps of Engineers be directed to withdraw and cancel for the following reasons:

1. Issuance of this permit is contrary and premature to the comprehensive study and final report of the overall plan for the Potomac Basin.
2. The concern and need to retain and protect the remaining natural estuaries of this Nation has been stressed by the establishment of the National Estuarine Preservation System by the Department of the Interior.
3. It has been documented by the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife that the area in contention is a valuable wintering ground for waterfowl, especially diving ducks. The area is also a most important habitat for all forms of marine life, including striped bass, white perch, and alewives.
4. It would appear that the Corps of Engineers did not honor or recognize the recommendation of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, under the Coordination Act.

We of the National Wildlife Federation respectfully urge that the Corps of Engineers be directed to withdraw the permit and to refrain from issuing others which would destroy the natural conditions of any estuarine area or region of this Nation.

Sincerely,

THOMAS L. KIMBALL,
Executive Director.

[Telegram]

ALEXANDRIA, VA., June 24, 1968.

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

Yates Gardens Citizens Association in downtown Alexandria, Va., next to Hunting Towers, earnestly requests that your committee disapprove plan to fill mouth of Hunting Creek to build high-rise apartment. Alexandria waterfront should remain unobstructed to maximum extent. Alexandria will not materially benefit from high-rise at that location.

YATES GARDENS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION,
By FRANCES T. SLATE.