

HON. ROBERT E. JONES,
Chairman.

FALLS CHURCH, VA.

DEAR SIR: I am horrified by the proposal to fill in 19 acres of Hunting Creek in Alexandria. This is one of the few remaining places in the neighborhood of Washington and northern Virginia for overwintering ducks and other forms of marsh life. Now we are part of the Atlantic flyway, but not if dam-happy, fill-happy Army Corps of Engineers and greedy builders have their way.

San Francisco Bay was once a magnificent 300 square miles of natural marshland for shore birds and waterfowl; today, thanks to "fill," there are about 75 miles. The Golden Gate is known as the Garbage Gate. Is the Potomac River to become a trickling stream between concrete, high-rise apartments? We can call it the Pathetic Potomac. The United States will soon be replete with perjorative alliterations.

I hope your subcommittee will disapprove these plans with vigorous language. Please include this letter in the record of the hearing to be held 24th of June 1968.

Sincerely yours,

PATRICIA A. WOLLENBERG.

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY,
Washington, D.C., June 24, 1968.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Wilderness Society is gratified that the occasion of your inquiry into the granting of a permit by the Army Corps of Engineers to Howard P. Hoffman Associates, Inc., to fill in the Potomac estuary at Hunting Creek, near Alexandria, Va., and to build a bulkhead thereon, provides the opportunity for emphasizing that the said permit has been issued in the face of very strong opposition by conservationists.

Earlier this year the Wilderness Society stated what is quite well known, that the location in question is a wintering ground for ducks and other waterfowl. As such, it is one of the dwindling natural resources of our metropolitan region. It cannot be replaced. With the continued and remorseless reduction of such resources, it is high time to remember that the location of a developer's dream may be a negotiable matter, but the survival of an estuary is not negotiable.

The value of the Hunting Creek estuary will be enhanced as there is progress in abating pollution in the Potomac River. Such abatement will come, and it will be further accelerated, no doubt, as plans mature for the establishment of a recreation area and park on Jones Point, which is a part of the estuary.

A quality environment at Hunting Creek will serve the people of Alexandria and the region—and the Nation, too.

The Wilderness Society therefore urges that the action of the Army Corps of Engineers in granting a permit to Howard P. Hoffman Associates, Inc., be reversed, and respectfully requests that this statement be made a part of the June 24, 1968, hearing record of the Natural Resources and Power Subcommittee of the House Government Operations Committee. Thank you.

Sincerely,

STEWART M. BRANDBOG,
Executive Director.

STATEMENT OF J. W. PENFOLD, CONSERVATION DIRECTOR, THE IZAAK WALTON
LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Mr. Chairman, I am J. W. Penfold, conservation director of the Izaak Walton League of America. The league is a national organization of citizens who are concerned with the conservation and wise use of the Nation's natural resources. The league opposes the granting of a permit to bulkhead and fill within the Hunting Creek estuary near Alexandria, Va., as proposed by the firm of Hoffman & Associates. The league opposed issuance of the permit at the public hearing conducted by the Corps of Engineers on February 21, 1968. We were gravely disappointed to learn recently that the permit had been issued. We are grateful that your committee is taking a look at the matter.