

As a further indication of this Department's efforts to minimize the impact of this project on the Potomac environment, we believe that the reduction in area from over 36 acres to less than 9 is directly attributable to our assertion of riparian property rights attaching to the Jones Point Park site. In short, where there was any valid and sustainable basis for objecting to the project on grounds within this Department's area of competence, those objections were made.

The material you forwarded is returned as requested.

Sincerely yours,

DAVID S. BLACK,
Under Secretary of the Interior.

VIRGINIA DIVISION,
IZAACK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC.,
July 3, 1968.

Hon. ROBERT E. JONES,
Member, Committee on Government Operations,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. JONES: Enclosed herewith is my statement made at the Corps of Engineers hearing on February 21, 1968, re Howard P. Hoffman Associates bulk-heading application at Hunting Creek estuary.

As true conservationists no doubt you are concerned as to the stand we have taken. I would like to explain some of our reasoning. First this is an unusual situation that one has to see and observe over a period of time. Secondly, if something isn't done in the very near future the entire estuary to the south will be completely silted in (this being the area used as a wintering ground for waterfowl). Thirdly, we are of the opinion that if the creek bed is dredged from the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway Bridge to the channel in the Potomac River it would tend to carry the silt and effluent from the Alexandria disposal plant out into the main body of the river and we are hopeful that it would make the area south of the creek more habitable to wildlife. Yes, it might even create an opening so that fish could once again travel to the upper reaches of the stream.

It has been mentioned that the area has already been ruined. That much of it has is very true indeed. The area in question that the applicant wishes to fill in is much worse than the southern portion. Since all this land is privately or Government owned and has no possibility of ever being reclaimed we felt that giving up approximately 9 acres of land to save several hundred acres to the south would be a move in the right direction.

In the early thirties this was a good hunting and fishing area. Of this I can speak first hand. But I had to give up some 12 years ago, primarily because of pollution, and more recently because siltation has filled the area that only on a high tide can you get around in a row boat.

I have hunted and fished from the east coast to the west coast and as far north as Alaska. In March of 1930, I was employed by the contractor building the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway and was in charge of building the causeway across Hunting Creek and have lived with the problem that was started then.

For conservation's sake,

CLAUDE B. HARRIS,
Chairman, Legislative Committee.

[Subcommittee note—The enclosure referred to in the first paragraph of the foregoing letter is in the record of the corps' hearing of Feb. 21, 1968.]