

STATEMENT OF ARTHUR T. WRIGHT, CONSERVATION CONSULTANT, REPRESENTING
THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Mr. WRIGHT. Colonel Rhea, gentlemen, my name is Arthur T. Wright. I am a conservation consultant and a resident of Alexandria. I am giving this statement in behalf of the Wilderness Society of 729 15th Street NW., Washington, D.C.

The Wilderness Society is a nonprofit conservation organization founded in 1935 and it was for primarily the establishment and protection of wilderness areas wherever they may be found in these United States.

However, the society is also interested in a broad range of conservation values among which is the preservation of open space, air and water pollution, wildlife, and so on.

The Wilderness Society opposes the approval of the application of Howard P. Hoffman Associates, Inc., for construction of a bulkhead in Hunting Creek estuary.

The society recognizes that the area is not presently in an entirely unspoiled condition as regards water pollution and hence, there may be some loss of value as waterfowl feeding area and as recreation area in that portion of the estuary immediately to the north of the entrance of Hunting Creek into the estuary.

However, in order to prevent further deterioration of the area by construction of a land fill and reasonable expectation that future developments will restore the area, we recommend that the application be denied.

Future developments on which we rely are the availability of water pollution control measures for the area and on Department of the Interior plans and funds for a recreation area and park on Jones Point, which is a contiguous part of this small estuary. The construction of a high-rise apartment on the estuary would, esthetically speaking, be thoroughly incompatible with the proposed park and would permanently prevent the restoration of the area as waterfowl habitat and as a recreational area.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this statement in behalf of a restorable natural asset such as the Hunting Creek estuary.

Thank you.

Colonel RHEA. Thank you, sir. Mr. Shows.

STATEMENT OF A. Z. SHOWS, REPRESENTING VALLEY VIEW CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Mr. SHOWS. Colonel Rhea and staff, my name is A. Z. Shows. I was designated many years ago to carry on the fight of preservation of the Hunting Creek area. That has the backing of all the citizens' associations in the area which constitutes about 86,000 voters.

That "epistolarian" masterpiece of hogwash that Mr. Holland put out here is amazing.

Colonel RHEA. Careful, now.

Mr. SHOWS. I am really flabbergasted. I think he has proved the very thing that we have been saying all the time. The Army Engineers were interested in who was filling this area up. I think he testified adequately to that position. We know very well, contrary to the learned counsel, not Mr. McCormack's partner, of course—that that was not accretion at all by fill. We have presented the evidence to this, of the pictures of the dump trucks filling it, and also, you might remember, his original photograph of the area would certainly prove the point that not only had Hunting Towers filled in the area in front of them, not only built the swimming pool on the land, and I was glad to hear the learned counsel bring up the fact of the Virginia law.

They know as well as I know, and we have proved this in court consistently in Virginia, that the foreshore area is to be held in trust by the State government for all the people.

Here is a clear case of that violation again. We must have the egress and ingress there. Certainly destroyed the whole inner bay, middle bay and outer bay and we are grateful to the Army Engineers for not letting this area continue on into private ownership as opposed to public ownership and if the Army Engineers will go back a little, they will be reminded that at a congressional meeting on the Hill, the Army Engineers were instructed by Congressman Dingell, Congressman Saylor, Congressman Reuss, that that area had been illegally filled, which is obviously creating this condition leading into the Potomac, or the outer bay of the area, they were either to have them remove that fill or the Army Engineers were to remove it and charge these developers with it.

I think you have a good client in one regard.