

public figures in New Jersey go—our Governor, State legislators and Congressmen.

This is a danger that is going to constantly attack this area as New Jersey gets more and more populated. The pressures to break into this area in one way or another are strong, and we feel that we would like to have this land put in as safe a position against any kind of encroachment as we can. Thus, we are supporting this transfer of the refuge to the National Wilderness System.

I shall not attempt to give more details on it. Representative Frelinghuysen is intimately familiar with it. He has led the fight against it being taken over by the New York Port Authority for the airport and also against any other encroachment and to put it in a safe situation.

I would ask, if I may, as I am sure the chairman will permit, to introduce several of his constituents who are prepared to do anything the committee wants in the way of explanation. All are thoroughly familiar with the area and purposes that this bill would serve.

Senator CHURCH. Yes. Congressman Frelinghuysen, we are pleased to have you in the committee today and I would ask you to give us the benefit of your testimony. Senator Nelson has a conflicting committee assignment and wants to be heard immediately after you have spoken so, if you would all defer introduction of others who are here until Senator Nelson has had a chance to make his statement, we will accommodate him and let him get on to his committee. If you will proceed with your personal statement, then we will ask Senator Nelson to make his statement.

STATEMENT OF PETER H. B. FRELINGHUYSEN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

MR. FRELINGHUYSEN. First, let me say I am pleased to testify at this hearing and I was pleased to hear from Senators Williams and Case on the subject. The bill to designate 3,750 acres of the Morris County, N.J., Great Swamp as wilderness is one of vital concern to everyone in the entire State, and I am particularly gratified at the unanimity of support this legislation has received in the Senate, where both Senators from New Jersey has cosponsored it, and in the House where 15 Members have cosponsored an identical bill, H.R. 16771.

Such broad-based support is a common thread in the historical fabric of efforts to preserve the Great Swamp. More than \$1 million was contributed and used to purchase and donate nearly 3,000 acres of the swamp to the Federal Government when the first threat to the swamp became apparent. Contributions to this campaign were received from approximately 7,000 individuals and 500 organizations in 39 States across the country. This support grew over the years and was never more in evidence than in February 1967, when the Department of the Interior conducted a hearing in Morristown, N.J., on the proposal to include the swamp in the wilderness system.

The transcript of this public hearing runs to 350 pages and contains the oral testimony of 62 persons and 164 written statements in the form of telegrams, letters, and cards. All favored the proposal except one. Communications were received from 6,212 individuals, only two of which expressed opposition. A total of 245 communications was received from organizations such as the Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club and all were in favor of the proposal.