

Few other areas in Wisconsin—indeed, few others in the central Midwest—will be available for protection as wilderness. With so little left, we in that part of the country have a real appreciation for its value.

Though no mineral wealth is found on these areas, though the land is all federally owned already, and though no cost will be incurred by this designation, these wild lands are priceless. It is to secure the perpetuation of these treasured islands that I urge your favorable report on this legislation.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you Senator Nelson.

The committee has received statements in support of S. 3502 from Senator Muskie, Senator Hart, Congressman Ruppe, and Congressman Hathaway. They will be included in the hearing record at this point. Then we will return to testimony on the Great Swamp Wilderness Area.

(The data referred to follow :)

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, D.C., June 27, 1968.

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON,
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I appreciate this opportunity to express my support of S. 3502, which would add certain lands in Michigan, Wisconsin and Maine to the National Wilderness System.

Never before in our national history has the need for protection of our dwindling wildlife resources been greater. S. 3502 offers us an opportunity to set aside for ourselves and future generations some wilderness areas, which are unique for their habitat, vegetation, beauty and other natural aspects.

The Maine lands under consideration are the Edmunds and Birch Islands in the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge in Washington County, the most easterly county in the nation. The Edmunds and Birch Islands units make an interesting comparison. The Edmunds unit was completely cleared of timber in the 19th century and then swept repeatedly by wild fires. Since the establishment of the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge in 1937, the quality of the Edmunds natural environment has progressed slowly. Thus, the proposal to preserve the Edmunds unit is a creative opportunity in wilderness management. The area will eventually return to its wilderness state if S. 3502 is enacted.

By contrast, the Birch Islands have rarely been visited by man. Uninhabited throughout the centuries, the islands can honestly be called "little jewels of unspoiled wilderness."

Both the Edmunds and Birch Islands units are of special value to the nation. The Edmunds unit will provide serious students as well as visitors an opportunity to observe the changing ecology over the years. The Birch Islands unit offers Americans an opportunity to observe one of the few parts of our country that has never been inhabited and whose ecology has never been disturbed.

I urge the Committee to act favorably on S. 3502, and would appreciate this letter being made a part of the record of the hearings.

Sincerely,

EDMUND S. MUSKIE.
U.S. Senate.

STATEMENT OF HON. PHILIP A. HART, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE
OF MICHIGAN

Mr. Chairman, it is a pleasure for me to urge your favorable action on a bill of which I am a cosponsor (S. 3502) to preserve and protect additional samples of wild America for the legacy of the future. This is a program which serves the public interest in the highest sense. Through the wilderness program and through our other conservation efforts, we are writing a collective will and testament, as it were. To our children's children, we are bequeathing our most treasured heirlooms—a good, green earth blessed with an environment of natural grandeur,