

diversity, and quality. Too often we bequeath ugliness and environmental squalor by our lack of foresight. Today, by an act of thoughtful foresight, we bequeath to the future a sample of our own heritage.

That is what we set out to do in the 88th Congress when we passed the landmark Wilderness Act. Today we are implementing that Act, and it is indeed a distinct pleasure to support the designation as wilderness of three wild samples of the diverse geography and ecology of the State of Michigan.

Michigan calls itself the "Great Lakes State", and so it is appropriate that two of the three Michigan proposals in S. 3502 involve islands in three of the lakes which form our state boundaries.

The Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuge actually consists of three islands—one in Lake Huron, two in Lake Michigan. These are small islands—totalling 12 acres—but they qualify as wilderness not only in terms of the law, but also by virtue of their remote wilderness, being buffered from civilization by water.

The Huron Islands are remote, too, and wild, but their wildness is of a different, more aloof kind. These are eight islands grouped in Lake Superior in a pristine, scenic cluster off the south lake shore and not far from the wild Huron Mountains. One hundred and forty-seven acres in all, the islands are covered by gnarled trees, and their granite bedrock is a history book of lessons of the glacial action which shaped all of the State. The islands comprise the Huron Islands National Wildlife Refuge administered by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. The Coast Guard and Army Corps of Engineers share some jurisdiction, but do not plan further activities inimical to wilderness.

The proposed Seney wilderness is of a different character for it lies inland, in the heart of our Upper Peninsula. The Seney National Wildlife Refuge is nearly 100,000 acres in size, and the wilderness would occupy its western portion of 25,150 acres.

The environment which would be protected at Seney is unique. Two-thirds of the area is covered by "string bogs"—a landscape of shallow boggy areas interrupted by a series of parallel sand knolls. This complex and remarkable land form is actually the remnant of sand dunes which were formed after the glaciers receded. "String bogs" are found nowhere farther south in North America. I am hopeful that this wild landscape will be protected by an Act of the 90th Congress.

Mr. Chairman, I have not yet mentioned wildlife, but I will not neglect it. These areas are all now wildlife refuges, and they will remain so. Wilderness designation will not change this—including the Bureau's ability to open portions of them to public hunting—but will add a further mandate that the total wildness of these areas be retained—wilderness is the environment for wildlife. Gulls and terns on the islands; deer, moose, and bald eagle—these are some of the species which use and will always use these lands.

These proposals come before you today with a tremendous supportive record. Prior to and at public hearings in Michigan, many citizen-conservationists constructively participated in preparing well-rounded, non-controversial proposals. The State of Michigan has endorsed the proposals, which are now embodied in legislation unanimously sponsored by both Senators and all 19 Michigan House members.

The designation as wilderness will bring secure protection to these wild lands. It will also help to round out our National Wilderness Preservation System. A diverse set of Michigan environments will have been sampled and protected. Together with Isle Royale National Park and other potential areas in Michigan which also will be reviewed for wilderness, these units will represent a living heritage of opportunity for the future: The opportunity to know the original American continent and the opportunity to know wildness. Thus these proposals will serve Michigan and the nation. They require neither land acquisition authority nor any other Federal expense for their accomplishment. I ask your favorable consideration of S. 3502. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF HONORABLE PHILIP E. RUPPE, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS
FROM THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

The Seney National Wildlife Refuge of 94,455 acres is located in Schoolcraft County in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Some 25,150 acres at the western end of this Refuge qualify as roadless area suitable for wilderness designation by Congress, as provided for in S. 3502 and in my House bill, H.R. 17011, which I am hopeful the House Committee will consider shortly.