

Objections registered by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game of Maine and by the University of Maine were withdrawn upon notification that the proposal had been revised to accommodate those interests.

Consequently, I join in supporting this wilderness proposal which will constitute these areas to be maintained in a state as natural as possible. These areas will be officially set off limits to private or public use for any purpose which would disrupt preservation. In these areas, mankind will be welcomed and invited to enjoy the solitude and sport afforded by the uninhibited process of nature, a wonder still unequalled by mankind.

Senator CHURCH. Congressman Frelinghuysen, you have some constituents you want to introduce and I would invite you to proceed in any way you prefer.

As you know, the Wilderness Act prescribes against any roads or other manmade buildings or shelters or anything of that kind in a wilderness area so that, consistent with the provisions of the act, this particular road through the Great Swamp would have to be closed for this area to qualify for inclusion in the Wilderness System. I understand from your testimony that the legal governmental people have indicated their willingness to close the road if this measure is approved?

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. That is true, Mr. Chairman. I assume there is a representative of the Department of the Interior who will testify on this point. As you can see by the map, it was proposed to break the area into two segments and, in effect, have two wilderness areas and it was thought, because of that, a road might be permitted.

As I say, in the area officials in both townships have already indicated they would be willing to close the road if that should be necessary to designate the entire area as a single wilderness.

Senator CHURCH. My impression would be that closing the road would be necessary, otherwise leaving a road running through and rationalizing it on the basis of having a wilderness area on either side of it is just a clear way of avoiding the provisions of the act. If that could be done here, it could be done anywhere.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. The House showed concern over that, too, and for that reason we have been in touch with officials of both townships. A number of statements have been presented to Mr. Aspinall.

Senator CHURCH. Why don't you introduce your witnesses?

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I don't know in what order they would like to testify. We have Mr. Jack W. Moody, chairman of the Somerset County Park Commission. In addition we have Russell Myers, director of the Morris County Park System, and Mr. Este Stowell, trustee of the North Jersey Conservation Foundation. Mr. Stowell is accompanied by Miss Helen Fenske, executive secretary of the North Jersey Foundation. And last but not least from my particular area—I am sure there are others who would like to testify—Dr. Robert Oxnam, president of Drew University.

Senator JORDAN. While the gentlemen are coming up, may I say I am delighted to see this interesting wilderness preservation exhibited in Eastern areas. I have been in support of wilderness legislation, but largely it has been in the western part of the country for only a few people. But here comes a proposition before this committee setting aside an area within weekend commuting distance of many of the people of the Nation. This, I think, is a move in the right direction. I am in favor of more of this kind of thing.