

Whereas, The unusual ecology in this quiet swamp with its abundant wildlife, its ridges and knolls of laurel and old trees, is daily being studied and enjoyed by citizens of all ages; and

Whereas, This natural area provides urgently needed water, vital to the flow of the Passaic River and to the recharging of underground water supplies, to meet the demands of our ever increasing population; and

Whereas, Migratory water fowl and other birds utilize these wetlands in increasing numbers for both stopping and nesting places; and

Whereas, This "postage stamp wilderness" lies at the doorstep of more than thirty million people, in the center of Megalopolis, U.S.A.; and

Whereas, It is important to perpetuate this land in its natural state for the benefit of the generations yet to come, who will face a more urbanized society than ours; Now therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Board of Directors of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs does signify its approval of the inclusion of the M. Hartley Dodge and Harding Wilderness Units in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Mr. STOWELL. One more thing, Mr. Chairman. I believe I raised the question of the road and I believe we have provided at least an explanation, if not a justification, for that road. I would like, if I may, to read a letter which has been addressed separately to us by the mayors of Harding and Passaic Townships which bear on that road.

The first says that a large segment of the Great Swamp Wildlife Refuge lies within the boundaries of Harding Township. At the time of the February 14, 1967, wilderness hearing, the Harding Township was in favor of the wilderness proposal and the including of the 1,350-acre Harding unit and the 2,400-acre M. Hartley Dodge national area into the national wilderness preservation system. The township endorsement was included in the House subcommittee hearings on June 3 in support of H.R. 16671.

It was proposed that the administration of these portions of the refuge be handled in the same manner as other areas included in the National Wilderness Act. The two areas have heretofore been regarded as two separate and distinct ecological wilderness units and because of the existence of Myersville Road—this was the name of the road—a narrow unimproved road dividing them, had not been questions before this time.

However, if the Subcommittee on Public Lands of the Senate Interior Committee feels the Harding and Dodge units cannot be considered as two separate wilderness areas, upon congressional approval of these lands into the wilderness system, Harding and Passaic Townships will take the steps necessary to vacate the portion within the wilderness areas.

I have given you the substance of two nearly identical letters from the adjoining townships of Passaic and Harding.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you, Mr. Stowell.

You are accompanied by Mrs. Arthur Fenske, director of the North Jersey Foundation.

Mrs. FENSKE. I have no statement, sir.

Senator CHURCH. We have heard then from this group, Congressman Frelinghuysen from New Jersey, and we appreciate very much the benefit of your testimony.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. We appreciate the opportunity of appearing before you.

Senator CHURCH. Our next witness will be Mr. John S. Gottschalk, Director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries for the Department of the