

vital to long-range social and economic interests of citizens of Indian River County; and preservation of Pelican Island Refuge because of its historical value as the Nation's first national wildlife refuge.

It is our understanding that the Department of the Interior fully supports this legislation, and we urge your Committee to favorably act upon it.

With kind regards, we remain,

Yours faithfully,

SPESSARD L. HOLLAND.
GEORGE SMATHERS.

STATEMENT OF HON. PAUL G. ROGERS, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM
THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Mr. Chairman: I appreciate very much the opportunity afforded to me by the Committee to express my interest and support of S. 3343 which would establish the Pelican Island Wilderness within the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge, Indian River County, Florida, as a unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

It has been my privilege to represent Indian River County in the Congress for 12 years, and while I will lose the county due to re-districting, I will always have fond memories of associations made there.

I introduced H.R. 17336, a companion bill to S. 3343, because I know how popular the proposed designation of the area as a wilderness is. During the public hearing held on the proposal, testimony was unanimously in favor of the wilderness proposal. Petitions and resolutions representing some 34 different organizations and signed by over 1,260 individuals were also present in support of the plan.

At the time of the hearing, I sent a communication in support of the proposal. Similar communications were received from the City of Vero Beach, Florida; the City Council of Sebastian, Florida; the Board of Commissioners, Indian River County, Florida; the Indian River County Public Schools and the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce.

Approximately 403 acres encompassing 15 islands would be added to the National Wilderness System by the adoption of this legislation.

We have a commitment to our posterity to provide protection against developments that would destroy the colonial bird and marine resources of the Pelican Island area, to preserve the unique ecology of this area for its scientific value and to preserve the resources and natural beauty.

I respectfully urge the Committee to report favorably on this proposal.

Senator METCALF. At this time we are going to call on Mr. C. R. Gutermuth, secretary of the North American Wildlife Foundation, an old friend of the committee and one of the tireless workers who has done so much for conservation all over the country.

Go ahead, Mr. Gutermuth.

STATEMENT OF C. R. GUTERMUTH, SECRETARY, NORTH AMERICAN
WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Mr. GUTERMUTH. All of this testimony I am going to give is going to be brief. The institute is in full support of these four bills before the committee. I am appearing this morning as the secretary of the North American Wildlife Foundation, which is one of the older national conservation organizations. Its program has been devoted to the restoration and improved management of natural resources in the public interest for more than 50 years.

I have been the volunteer and unpaid secretary of this foundation for nearly a quarter of a century. Like several of the other national conservation organizations, the foundation is in full support of the various bills being considered by the committee for additions to the wilderness system. We trust there will be no significant objection to