

S. 3502—SENEY, HURON ISLANDS, MICHIGAN ISLANDS, WISCONSIN ISLANDS,
MOOSEHORN REFUGE

Mr. Chairman, we have been in touch with our affiliates in the several States with regard to the wildlife refuges involved with this proposal and have the following comments to make.

Michigan.—The Michigan United Conservation Clubs recommends inclusion of Huron Islands and Michigan Islands Refuges in the wilderness system, and a statement from that organization is attached.

Huron Islands contains 147 acres near the south shore of Lake Superior which are valuable as bird nesting sites. These should be included despite an incompatible lighthouse and stone quarry.

Michigan Islands consists of three small islands totaling 12 acres in Lakes Michigan and Huron. They are chiefly of value to birds.

Seney.—The wilderness proposal includes 25,150 acres out of the total of 94,455 acres. This unit was established for the protection and production of waterfowl and other desirable wildlife. We agree with designating this portion of this refuge as wilderness only if it is recognized that manipulations of the habitat may be necessary for the unit to serve its primary function. Hunting also must be recognized. An open marsh with sizable edges, bogs, and timber areas, the wilderness portion is undeveloped. This is a popular refuge, with a visitor center and picnic areas.

Wisconsin.—The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation is of the opinion that wilderness classification will be the highest and best use for the Wisconsin Islands mentioned in the bill. The 29 acres are chiefly valuable for use by birds.

Maine.—The Natural Resources Council of Maine has asked that the National Wildlife Federation express its support for wilderness classification for 2,800 acres of the Moosehorn Wildlife Refuge. Proposed wilderness classification for 2,775 acres of the Edmunds unit has provoked considerable discussion. Because most of the area has been logged off or burned over, this would be "second growth" wilderness but a unit of high value. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife claims that areas for woodcock and waterfowl needing habitat manipulation were excluded from the present wilderness proposal. On grounds that the primary function of the refuge will not be adversely affected, as indicated by the Bureau, we support inclusion of the unit in the wilderness system.

S. 3425—MONOMOY

Monomoy Island is a 2,600-acre roadless island off Cape Cod, Mass., which has been managed as a wild area. The Massachusetts Wildlife Federation has given extensive study and consideration to all factors involved and supports the proposal. The National Wildlife Federation joins in recommending inclusion of this unit in the wilderness system and concurs in plans of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife for early acquisition of small inholdings. As we understand it, hunting and fishing could continue.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we hope that early approvals can be given to these proposals in order that their enactments may be among the accomplishments of the 90th Congress.

Thank you.