

(The statement of James L. Rouman follows:)

STATEMENT OF JAMES L. ROUMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MICHIGAN UNITED CONSERVATION CLUBS

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs is a statewide affiliation of conservationists and sportsmen totaling close to 90,000 members.

This organization supports the inclusion of the Huron Islands and Michigan Islands in the Wilderness Preservation System as proposed by S. 3502. While the future removal of gravel by the U.S. Corps of Engineers may not be compatible to the wilderness concept, this exception does not negate the MUCC support.

The organization also supports the inclusion of 25,150 acres of the Seney National Wildlife Refuge in the Wilderness Preservation System, if the right of the hunter to harvest the wildlife is continued under reasonable restrictions. It also requests that the occasional manipulation of selected habitat artificially in order to maintain such wildlife forms as spruce grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, etc. be made a matter of record.

Senator METCALF. Our next witness is Mr. Robert C. Boardman, public information director of the National Audubon Society.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT C. BOARDMAN, PUBLIC INFORMATION DIRECTOR, NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, NEW YORK, N.Y.

Mr. BOARDMAN. Mr. Chairman, the National Audubon Society supports all four of these wilderness proposals. However, because our affiliate, the Massachusetts Audubon Society, is scheduled to testify here and can speak with particularly thorough knowledge on Monomoy, and because there are others here well qualified to discuss the Florida, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Maine proposals, I would like to limit my remarks to S. 3379, to establish a wilderness area in the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

First we wish to commend the Interior Department for extending its original wilderness proposal for the Great Swamp to include the additional land area suggested by our society and many other conservation groups. The wilderness, as now proposed, includes a good cross section of all the habitat and ecological conditions found in the refuge: Woods and swamp in the Dodge unit; open marsh, cattails, and water in the Harding unit.

The National Audubon Society believes that this is a particularly important wilderness area because it is located so close to a great metropolitan area, in the middle of a densely populated region.

One reason is that the Great Swamp can provide a valuable outdoor laboratory and classroom for research scientists and for high school and university students. Such an outdoor lab can, by providing a norm for comparison, be of aid in specific studies concerned with the effects of water pollution, pesticide contamination, smog, radioactive fallout, and other specific biological problems of urgent national concern today, and—more important in the long run—can aid in more basic studies of natural processes that can lead to better scientific understanding of the world we live in.

The Great Swamp is not the only wild swamp in the world that offers opportunity for research and study, but it is the only one of its kind for hundreds of miles in any direction, and therefore, the only place that can offer such an opportunity within easy field-trip distance of the schools, universities, and research laboratories in an urban complex with a population of some 30 million people.