

STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

JUNE 30, 1977

IN SUPPORT OF FUNDING FOR HILLSDALE RESERVOIR

MR. PRESIDENT, I AM ESPECIALLY DISAPPOINTED TO SEE THIS EFFORT TO ELIMINATE FUNDING FOR HILLSDALE RESERVOIR, WHICH IS LOCATED NEAR KANSAS CITY, KANSAS. HILLSDALE RESERVOIR IS ALREADY UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND IS 30 PERCENT COMPLETE. FUNDS TO PROCEED WITH CONSTRUCTION DURING THE COMING FISCAL YEAR HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPROVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND ARE RECOMMENDED BY THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. AREA RESIDENTS IN KANSAS ARE FULLY DEPENDING ON THIS PROJECT AS A MAJOR FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER SUPPLY SOURCE FOR THE AREA.

A FEW WEEKS AGO, I RECEIVED COPIES OF PETITIONS SIGNED BY MORE THAN 3,000 RESIDENTS OF KANSAS RURAL AREAS TO BE AFFECTED BY THE PROJECT, INDICATING FULL SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED CONSTRUCTION AND COMPLETION OF HILLSDALE. IN ADDITION, RESOLUTIONS WERE RECEIVED FROM 11 CITIES AND RURAL WATER DISTRICTS FULLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE PROJECT. JUST THIS MORNING, I HAVE RECEIVED TELEGRAMS FROM LOCAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, SEVERAL MAYORS, AND NUMEROUS PRIVATE CITIZENS URGING THAT THIS CONGRESS PROCEED WITH PLANS TO FUND THIS VITAL SOURCE OF WATER SUPPLY AND PROTECTION.

KANSAS AT THE FOREFRONT OF DEVELOPMENT

MR. PRESIDENT, TWENTY LARGE FEDERAL LAKES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED IN KANSAS SINCE THE TERRIBLE DUST STORMS OF THE DEPRESSION AREA. WHAT WAS ONCE AN AREA WRACKED BY ALTERNATING DROUGHTS AND FLOODS HAS GRADUALLY BEEN DEVELOPED INTO AN EXEMPLARY MODEL OF WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT. KANSAS WAS THE FIRST OF THE FIFTY STATES TO AGREE TO PLACE WATER IN STORAGE IN FEDERAL RESERVOIRS AT STATE EXPENSE AS AUTHORIZED BY THE FEDERAL WATER SUPPLY ACT OF 1958. KANSANS VOTED A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT IN 1958 TO CLEAR THE WAY FOR STATE WATER DEVELOPMENT. THE STATE OF KANSAS RECOGNIZES THAT WATER IS A FINITE RESOURCE WHICH MUST BE CAPTURED AND CONTROLLED IN TIME OF SURPLUS SUPPLY FOR YEARS OF DEFICIENT SUPPLY. THIS HAS LEAD THE STATE TO ENTER INTO PRE-PAYMENT AGREEMENTS WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON NINE LAKES AT A FIRST COST TO THE STATE OF \$62 MILLION. SEVERAL KANSAS CITIES, RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO STORE WATER, HAVE ENTERED INTO CONTRACTS WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

IMPORTANCE OF HILLSDALE RESERVOIR

IN THE CASE OF HILLSDALE RESERVOIR, NINE ENTITIES AND PERHAPS MORE WILL DEPEND UPON THE LAKE FOR A WATER SUPPLY. IT WILL ASSURE THE PEOPLE IN THE AREA OF A DEPENDABLE WATER SUPPLY NOT NOW ENJOYED.

THE PROJECT WILL CONSERVE VALUABLE ENERGY RESOURCES. ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLY FOR THE NINE ENTITIES IN THE HILLSDALE AREA IS A PIPELINE TO THE KANSAS RIVER WITH A NEW ENERGY DEMAND OF 12 INCREASING TO 22 MILLION KILOWATT HOURS.

IN JANUARY OF 1974, THE KANSAS WATER RESOURCES BOARD, ACTING FOR THE STATE, SIGNED AN AGREEMENT FOR STORAGE FOR WATER SUPPLY PURPOSES. THE STATE IS OBLIGATED TO REPAY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ALMOST 35 PERCENT OF THE PROJECT COST. SEVERAL STUDIES SUGGEST THE POPULATION OF THE LAKE WATER SERVICE AREA MAY DOUBLE BEFORE THE YEAR 2000 DUE TO RAPID GROWTH AND EXPANSION OF THE KANSAS CITY AREA. ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS ARE LESS DESIRABLE FROM BOTH AN ECONOMIC AND AN ENERGY STANDPOINT.

COUNTERING THE ADMINISTRATION'S OBJECTIONS

THE PRESIDENT WANTS TO DELETE FUNDING AND DE-AUTHORIZE THIS PROJECT, AFTER IT IS 30 PERCENT COMPLETE. HE CLAIMS THAT THE LOSS OF PRODUCTIVE FARM LAND AND ADVERSE IMPACTS UPON WILDLIFE HABITAT OUTWEIGH THE NEED FOR HILLSDALE RESERVOIR.

IN FACT, THE HILLSDALE LAKE WOULD PREVENT FLOOD DAMAGE IN THE REACH IMMEDIATELY BELOW THE DAM SIGHT AND WOULD SHARE SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE TOTAL REDUCTION OF FLOOD DAMAGE IN OSAGE-MARAIS des CYGNES RIVER SYSTEM. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE NET TOTAL AREA FLOODED BY FLOOD CONTROL OPERATIONS AT HILLSDALE LAKE IS 2,830 ACRES. THE LOSS OF PRODUCTIVE FARM LAND CAN NEVER BE DIMINISHED AS A FACTOR IN CONSIDERING ANY PROJECT. IT CAN ONLY BE ACCEPTED, THOUGH REGRETTABLY, AS A MEANS TOWARDS PRESERVING AND PROTECTING EVEN GREATER AREAS FROM UNCONTROLLED FLOOD DAMAGE AND DROUGHT.

THE ADMINISTRATION ARGUES THAT HILLSDALE RESERVOIR WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT UPLAND WILDLIFE HABITAT AND FISHERIES. HOWEVER, A PLAN FOR MITIGATION OF LOSSES OF THIS TYPE HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE AND IS BEING CONSIDERED BY THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND APPROPRIATE AGENCIES. THE FISH AND WILDLIFE ESTIMATES ANNUAL NET FISHERY BENEFITS OF 69,100 FISHING DAYS IN HILLSDALE RESERVOIR, VALUED AT \$162,700. I UNDERSTAND THERE WILL BE INCREASED HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES ON PROJECT LANDS OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ALREADY UNDERWAY IN THE AREA WILL AFFECT THE CURRENT VALUE OF HUNTING WITH OR WITHOUT THE HILLSDALE PROJECT. IN GENERAL, ALL MAJOR IMPACTS HAD BEEN ADDRESSED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FILED BEFORE THE PROJECT WAS BEGUN, AND SUBSEQUENT PLANNING HAS RECOGNIZED ALL THE SO-CALLED MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS LISTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

A WORTHY PROJECT

MR. PRESIDENT, THE HILLSDALE RESERVOIR PROJECT HAS BEEN UNDER CLOSE SCRUTINY FOR MORE THAN A DECADE. IT HAS UNDERGONE THE CLOSE SCRUTINY OF THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS IN TERMS OF ITS COST EFFECTIVENESS. THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT HAS BEEN FOUND REASONABLE BY JUDICIAL REVIEWS. SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS OF WORK AND ENERGY HAVE ALREADY BEEN EXPENDED IN BEHALF OF THE PROJECT AND RATHER LARGE COMMITMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE RELYING ON ITS FUTURE CONSTRUCTION. I AM FRANKLY SURPRISED THAT AN EFFORT WOULD BE MADE AT THIS TIME TO DELETE CONTINUED FUNDING FOR THE PROJECT AND CERTAINLY FEEL THAT SUCH EFFORTS SHOULD BE REJECTED COMPLETELY.