Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee. We are pleased to appear today in connection with S.3529 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct necessary anadromous fish passage facilities at the existing Savage Rapids Dam.

The Department has not yet developed its position on S.3529 and, therefore, has no legislative report at this time.

Savage Rapids Dam is located on the Rogue River in Jackson and Josephine Counties about five miles east of Grants Pass, Oregon. The dam was built by the Grants Pass Irrigation District in 1921. Irrigation water is diverted from the reservoir to serve approximately 9,000 acres in the Grants Pass Valley plus some small additional acreage in the Evans Creek Valley.

The Rogue River traditionally has served as a migration route and spawning area for a large population of salmon and steelhead trout. The anadromous fish resources of the Rogue River are of considerable economic, aesthetic, social and recreational importance to the Nation. Although the Savage Rapids Dam has included fish passage facilities from its inception, they have been inefficient, troublesome, and at times inoperative.
The problems with fish passage at the dam have been many and complex. Numerous improvement attempts have been made. Specific structural and operational problems have caused fish losses, delays in migration, and interruption of the downstream sport fishery. On two previous occasions, the Bureau of Reclamation was involved in minor modifications at the dam in connection with the fishery problem pursuant to design recommendations of the Oregon State Game Commission. However, the fish passage problem still exists.

In recognition of that situation, the Congress on December 15, 1971, passed Public Law 92-199 which authorized a feasibility study of the Grants Pass Division of the Rogue River Basin Project. Responsive to that legislation, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and the Bureau of Reclamation proceeded to study a means of providing an interim solution to the anadromous fish passage problem at the dam. The second phase of the study will consider a more permanent solution to the fishery problem as well as the need for replacing the irrigation district's existing distribution system. Initially, both State and Federal fish agencies recognized that removal of the dam would be the most satisfactory solution to the fish passage problem. However, it was further recognized by all concerned that important socio-economic considerations must be dealt with before that or any other permanent solution can be identified.

As a result of the first phase of the study, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and the Bureau of Reclamation jointly prepared a special report, entitled "Anadromous Fish Passage Improvements, Savage Rapids Dam, Rogue River Basin Project, Grants Pass Division, Oregon."
The study was fully coordinated with the State of Oregon and the report has the concurrence of its fish and game agencies. The report was released in April 1974 and recommended implementation of a plan which would reduce the losses of adult and young fish at the dam. The plan would provide for significantly improved facilities for fish passage upstream through construction of a new fishway on the north side of the dam, gates for fish screen and turbine unwatering, downstream bypass improvements and fishway repairs and improvements on the south side of the dam. The total construction cost of the facilities is estimated to be $769,000 (January 1973 prices) and would be non-reimbursable. No additional operation and maintenance costs are expected. Using a 15-year period of analysis and a 5-1/2 percent interest rate, annual benefits are estimated at $160,000 and annual costs at $79,000. The benefit-cost ratio is 2.03 to 1.

The proposed improvements would reduce anadromous salmonid losses of fingerlings by 45 percent, smolt by 90 percent and adults by 40 percent. This would result in an estimated annual increase in commercial salmon catch valued at $100,700. The estimated annual increased sport fishing is valued at $59,400.

During the course of the study, two other alternatives were examined in detail in terms of cost and extent of accomplishment. The minimal emergency measures plan would involve a minimum cost combination of items that would improve the fish passage to some extent and decrease the risk of loss due to a major mechanical failure associated with the fish screens and turbines. It would not be adequate with respect to fish passage in the north fish ladder. The estimated cost of providing the facilities included in that plan is $260,000.
The maximum structural measures plan would provide anadromous fish passage protection on a permanent basis at an estimated cost of $2,760,000. However, until the second phase of the study is completed and the future of the dam determined, it would be premature to undertake such extensive revisions. The alternative of taking no action was considered but dismissed as contrary to the conservation and protection of our natural resources.

It is important to note that there are two Corps of Engineers' dams, Lost Creek and Elk Creek, under construction upstream from the Savage Rapids Dam. Both of those facilities have measures designed to conserve and enhance fishery values in the river.

Cole Rivers Hatchery at the Lost Creek Dam will mitigate losses to anadromous fish. This hatchery will release 300,000 steelhead and 500,000 spring chinook salmon in 1974-75. When the Elk Creek Dam project is completed, over two million smolts will be released to the river annually. The success of those two facilities will depend on the ability of the Savage Rapids Dam to pass migrants.
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 1974

Mr. HATFIELD (for himself and Mr. PACKWOOD) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct necessary interim anadromous fish passage facilities at Savage Rapids Dam, Grants Pass Division, Rogue River Basin project, Oregon, under Federal reclamation laws.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and directed to construct the necessary interim anadromous fish passage facilities at Savage Rapids Dam, Grants Pass Division, Rogue River Basin project, Oregon, to provide for improved anadromous fish passage at the dam. Such improvements would be substantially in accordance with a plan set
forth in the March 1974 joint special report of the Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. The procedures and responsibilities for the operation and maintenance of the fish facilities should be set forth in an agreement to be developed by the Oregon State Game Commission and the Grants Pass Irrigation District.

SEC. 2. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Bureau of Reclamation for construction of the facilities the sum of $769,000 (January 1973 prices), plus or minus such amounts, if any, as may be justified by reason of ordinary fluctuations in construction costs as indicated by engineering cost indices applicable to the types of construction involved herein. The project being specifically for the improvement of anadromous fish passage, all construction costs are nonreimbursable.
A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct necessary interim anadromous fish passage facilities at Savage Rapids Dam, Grants Pass Division, Rogue River Basin project, Oregon, under Federal reclamation laws.

By Mr. HATFIELD and Mr. PACKWOOD

MAY 22, 1974
Read twice and referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs