Mr. Chairman:

My statement in support of H.R. 4443, 4449 and 4463, similar House bills, shall be exceptionally short. I have no desire to be repetitious nor to unnecessarily enlarge a record which is already too voluminous. At the beginning of these hearings, when Members of the Committee and Congress were given time to make their personal statements, I refrained from doing so with the stated objective that I desired that the representatives present before the Committee from my Congressional District, be given the opportunity to present their various views on the legislation authorizing the Colorado River Storage and Development Project. This they have been permitted to do - their testimony is a part of the record. I am pleased to make their position my position and advise this Committee that, in my opinion, the people of my Congressional District, with but few exceptions, support the bills hereinabove enumerated.

We are for the integrated and intelligent development of the water resources of the Upper Colorado River Basin. We believe that the legislation now being considered, or something substantially akin to it, is vitally necessary and basic to such development. We wholeheartedly desire that the authorizing legislation be written according to the terms of and in harmony with the provisions of the Colorado River Compact of 1922, the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact and all statutes passed in compliance therewith (the law of the River). We desire that our obligations to the lower basin be met by us as heretofore agreed. At the same time, we sincerely hope that the people of the Lower Basin shall be willing to meet with our representatives in the Upper Basin at the very earliest possible opportunity for the purpose of settling amicably the few remaining differences on procedures which are
presently disturbing residents of each area. The people of the Upper Basin, who have waited so long for development of their area, rightly expect that further delays be no longer than absolutely necessary. As a matter of equity and justice, the residents of the Upper Basin should be able to expect that the benefits guaranteed to them under the compacts and statutes herein referred to be permitted to go to them now. Already, the Lower Basin has largely been developed while the Upper Basin has as yet received practically no attention whatever. In my opinion such present situation is not as originally desired by the Commissioners at the Santa Fe meeting.

The Upper Basin's share of water has by mutual agreement been divided between them. The question as to where such water should be used within the boundaries of the States entitled to the water rightly calls for State decision. The people of that part of Colorado lying west of the Continental Divide, in which 70% plus of all the Colorado River rises, contend that they should have Colorado's share of the water of the Colorado River to the extent necessary to take care of Western Colorado's present and future needs, maintaining that this area in the State of Colorado is one of the great natural resource treasuries of the nation. It is my feeling that Western Colorado people are perfectly willing that any of Colorado's share of waters surplus to the needs just mentioned should go to uses in Eastern Colorado. Also, I feel that they are willing that necessary water for domestic purposes in metropolitan areas be transported across the Continental Divide, with whatever safeguards are necessary to protect the uses within the natural basin of the Colorado River.

Private enterprise has done a magnificent job in its contribution up to now in the development that has taken place in the Upper Colorado River Basin. Hundreds
of small reservoirs and ditches have been constructed and are in use. An understanding and beneficient Federal Government has helped in a few instances where users in individual Federal reclamation projects have been able to afford the benefits provided and the projects have shown economic feasibility. However, the era of further development by individuals or single-purpose reclamation projects is practically ended. The last single multiple-purpose project that can stand alone on its own feet has been authorized. If this vast area with its great storehouse of natural resources and comprising 1/30th of the entire area of Continental United States is to develop further and make its almost unlimited beneficient contribution to our national welfare and security, then this legislation, or something substantially similar to it, must receive the approval of our National Congress and Chief Executive.

By giving its approval to the legislation now under study by us, our Federal Government is but following through with its promises, direct and indirect, contained in the approving legislation to the Colorado River Compact and the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact, and statutes in conformity therewith.

By this legislation our Federal Government is called upon to make some large contributions. In my opinion the economic values alone which will flow to the Nation as a whole, will more than compensate for the financial aid required.

I wish it understood by the conscientious and informed conservationists of our nation (all of whom have rendered great services to our people) that in my opinion, we are not breaking faith with them or establishing a new precedent in giving favorable approval to the Echo Park Project. Benefits for the good of all must be weighed here as in all cases. The benefits to the citizens of the area concerned
as compared to the disadvantages which might flow to those who seriously and honestly, and I might add unselfishly, desire to retain the wilderness qualities of this area, should be resolved in favor of the local beneficiaries.

There has been some indication that a proposal will be presented to this Committee by representatives of the City of Denver having for its purpose the inclusion of a domestic water supply program for such city as a participating project in this legislation. I wish to advise my Colleagues that Western Colorado and its Representative in Congress unanimously oppose such proposal at this time. In doing so, we do not wish to appear as opposing any future request which may be made by the citizens of our State Capitol when they are in actual need of waters for municipal purposes. We shall, as it has always been our desire, try to determine fairly the equities at that future time when the water shall be needed by the City of Denver.