

JUNE 19, 1979

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS THE BOARDS' APPRECIATION TO COLONEL POTEAT FOR HIS CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR FLOOD CONTROL IN THE SKAGIT BASIN AND FOR THE EFFORTS OF VERNON COOK, FOREST BROOKS AND OTHERS WHO HAVE CONTINUED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE COUNTY ON THIS PROJECT.

AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, I SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE BOARD IN UNANIMOUS SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED SKAGIT RIVER LEVEE PROJECT AS WE NOW UNDERSTAND IT. FLOOD PROTECTION FOR THE SKAGIT VALLEY IS LONG OVERDUE; THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROJECT TO THIS POINT HAS BEEN A TEDIOUS PROCESS AND I WOULD BE THE LAST TO SAY THAT THE PROPOSED PROJECT IS A PERFECT SOLUTION TO OUR PROBLEM. HOWEVER, REALIZING THERE IS NO PERFECT SOLUTION, IT IS THE OPINION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THAT THE SKAGIT RIVER LEVEE PROJECT AS PROPOSED HERE TONIGHT, IS THE BEST ALTERNATIVE FOR FLOOD PROTECTION AVAILABLE TO SKAGIT COUNTY AT THIS POINT.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT ALTHOUGH THIS HEARING IS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, IT IS A SKAGIT COUNTY PROJECT AND WE AS YOUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERING YOUR COMMENTS HERE TONIGHT.

THERE ARE MANY CONCERNS WHICH HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED, MANY OF THESE HAVE BEEN RESOLVED WHILE OTHERS WILL BE CONSIDERED IN THE DETAIL PROJECT DESIGN PHASE AND THROUGH CONTINUED STUDY ON THE PART OF THE CORPS IN COOPERATION WITH THE COUNTY. THE PROPOSED PROJECT INCLUDES FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION MEASURES FOR AREAS AFFECTED BY THE HIGHER LEVEES. THESE MEASURES WILL BE DISCUSSED IN THE CORPS' PRESENTATION TONIGHT.

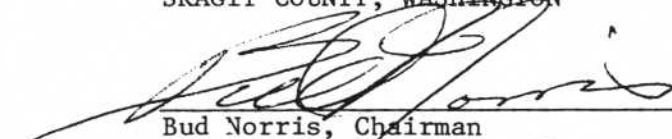
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THE BOARD IS CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS TO GAIN CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR THE PROJECT. CONGRESSMAN SWIFT AND SENATORS MAGNUSON AND JACKSON HAVE GIVEN THEIR SUPPORT AND WE EXPECT THROUGH THEIR EFFORTS TO HAVE AUTHORIZATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

AFTER THE CORPS HAS PRESENTED THE PROJECT, INCLUDING NEW INFORMATION AND DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE LAST PUBLIC MEETING, YOU WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THE PROPOSAL AND EXPRESS YOUR SUPPORT AND CONCERNS. YOUR COMMENTS ARE IMPORTANT AND WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO EITHER SHARE THEM WITH US IN VERBAL TESTIMONY, OR YOU MAY USE THE SHEET IN THE BACK OF THE BROCHURE OR, IF YOU WISH, YOU MAY WRITE OR TELEPHONE THE CORPS, THE SKAGIT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, OR THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WITH YOUR INPUT.

THANK YOU.


BOARD OF SKAGIT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Bud Norris, Chairman



Howard Miller, Commissioner



Jerry U. Mansfield, Commissioner

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