

THE MOUNT VERNON ARGUS

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River Dredging Backed

Funds to study dredging of the Skagit river from the Sound to Concrete, for navigation, may be asked of the next Congress, Sen. Warren Magnuson has advised Leo Sullivan, chairman of the Mount Vernon chamber of commerce industrial committee.

Sullivan this week said the study, to open the river to shallow draft barge transportation (minimum six foot depth), was urged in a resolution adopted by the Inland Empire Waterways association in Portland last week. The project, said Sullivan, "has hearty endorsement from 36 business firms and chambers of commerce in the area," as well as the waterways association. He said it would provide improved

navigation for small craft and barges and flood control benefit as well.

Magnuson said the senate interstate and foreign commerce committee of which he is chairman would consider the Skagit along with other important Pacific Northwest federal improvement projects.

Remaining major requirement in promoting industrial growth of the Skagit Valley, said Sullivan, is "low cost transportation," such as simple dredging of the river's natural course could provide. He said brief initial studies have indicated economic justification for the project could be shown and it would be engineeringwise sound.