

**STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN E. FOGARTY, 2nd DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND,
TO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS IN SUPPORT OF SAKONNET HARBOR AND BULLOCKS
COVE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, FEBRUARY 3, 1954.**

Mr. Chairman:

I desire to obtain this Committee's favorable consideration of two projects in the State of Rhode Island. Officially they are referred to as the improvement of Sakonnet Harbor in the Town of Little Compton R. I., and the improvement of Bullocks Cove in the Town of East Providence, R.I.

The Sakonnet Harbor project has been urged for many years. Both the New England Field Office of the Army Engineers and the Board of Engineers of that agency here in Washington have recommended the extension of the present breakwater at Sakonnet by 400 feet and the dredging of the harbor to a depth of 8 feet. The State of Rhode Island through its Department of Public Works has strongly endorsed this proposal and has stated that the project would be of inestimable value, not only to the local community but to many others who would be

attracted to the port by the improved facilities.

Local interests have given the required assurances that they will: (a) Contribute \$18,700 in cash toward the cost of construction; (b) furnish free of cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-way, necessary for the initial work, and for subsequent maintenance when and as required; and, (c) hold and save the United States free from damages due to construction and maintenance of the project.

The hearings conducted by the Army Engineers contain a wealth of information showing the urgent need for this improvement. These hearings point out, quite clearly and emphatically, that present conditions seriously interfere with the successful operation of the fishing industry. They further graphically indicate that during storms, continued severe damage will be felt by those boats still using the harbor due to the present inadequate breakwater.

The improvements for which this Committee's consideration is requested would do much to eliminate Sakonnet Harbor's present problems. They would certainly be a much needed boon to the fishing and lobstering

industry of that area; a godsend to navigation in that an adequate harbor of refuge would be provided; and a direct benefit to all the people in the southeastern section of Rhode Island.

The Bullocks Cove project has also been given the full approval of the Army Engineers and the State of Rhode Island. This improvement has been long sought by the yachting and boating associations of Narragansett Bay as a refuge for small craft. The recommended proposal provides for the cutting of an entrance channel of 75 foot width into the cove and the making of two basins within the cove, one for turning and the other for mooring purposes. The cove itself offers excellent storm protection but little can be done to utilize its full potentiality until the suggested improvements are made.

Both the Sakonnet Harbor and Bullocks Cove projects are considered vital to the development of our Rhode Island economy through the full utilization of its water resources. I cannot too strongly urge this Committee to take favorable action on both measures and sincerely hope that you will include both in the bill which you will report to the Congress.