

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE JOHN E. FOGARTY, M.C., SECOND DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING A BEACH EROSION CONTROL PROJECT FOR THE SOUTH SHORE OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND, APRIL 8, 1954.

I desire to obtain this Committee's consideration of a project in my Congressional District - the Second District of Rhode Island. Officially it is referred to as the Beach Erosion Control of the South Shore of the State of Rhode Island.

Over the years, the many fine beaches on the South Shore of Rhode Island have been severely damaged by the ravages of storms. The hurricanes of 1938 and 1944 particularly raised havoc with the shore line and resulted in greatly increased beach erosion.

Back in 1949, the Office of the Chief of Engineers, based on detailed surveys and studies, recommended that a project be adopted by the United States, authorizing Federal participation by the contribution of federal funds for shore protection and improvement at Narragansett Pier, Point Judith Harbor and Napatree Beach. The State of Rhode Island, through its Director of Public Works, concurred in the findings and recommendations and heartily endorsed the report. In 1950, the Bureau of the Budget advised the Secretary of the Army that it had no objection to the submission of the report to the Congress.

As the Engineers' Report specifies, the purpose of the study was to determine the best methods of restoring and protecting the shore lines against damage from storms and hurricanes and;

maintaining openings into certain salt water ponds. Unfortunately, the Beach Erosion Board found that protection of the entire length of the shore line under study was neither feasible nor essential. It made various suggestions for many of the specific areas but confined its recommendations for federal participation to Narragansett Pier, Point Judith Harbor, and Napatree Beach.

The public benefits to be derived from the proposed improvements are sufficient to justify federal participation as the Engineers' Report adequately shows. Too much time has already elapsed in correcting the situation and I cannot too strongly urge this Committee's favorable action on it.