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Colorado River Commission of Arizona
State House
Phoenix, Arizona

May 2, 1928.

Dear Mr. Congressman:

You have not been bothered by lobbyists representing the State of Arizona, in opposition to the Boulder Canyon Dam bill (H.R. 5773). Neither shall you, although Arizona's concern is very real.

The purpose of this communication is not to go into details, nor to indulge in argument, but merely to urge, respectfully but very seriously, that you make the most searching inquiry into the facts of this impending legislation.

We are confident that you will not support the measure if you find that it would despoil a State of the American Union of resources essential to its growth, for the aggrandizement of a richer and more powerful one, and would prostitute the power of the Federal government to accomplish this purpose--

That in obvious violation of the Constitution of the United States it would force upon the territory of a State not consenting thereto, legislation enacted by other States; and would attempt to render this effective by means of a virtual boycott to be conducted through the agency of the United States government--

That it would destroy State autonomy and exalt Federal bureaucracy by denying the sovereignty of the States over their waters, thereby jeopardizing the rights of many States, and threatening the very life of those of the arid West which have depended and still depend for their existence upon control of the waters within their borders--

That under the guise of a flood control measure it would authorize a Federal appropriation for a huge power project of questionable soundness economically, and of such doubtful status as an engineering proposition that its sponsors are unwilling to submit it to the judgment of a board of eminent and disinterested engineers--

That it would inevitably result in many acres of American lands being doomed to remain desert forever, while Mexican lands would be reclaimed with water stored in this country at the expense of the people of this country.

We are confident, also, that you will not be unduly influenced by an agonized cry of distress, of life and property imperilled, if you find that the emergency has been shamelessly and unconscionably capitalized and spectacularized; if you find that the peril, such as it is, is not imminent, and that it can be met more quickly, more safely and at less expense, without doing violence to the rights of other States.

You will not support the measure because "it is opposed only by the power trust" if you find that the charge is false; if you find that the objections here

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enumerated, and other objections good and sufficient, are not affected in the slightest degree by the question of the government's entrance into business.

You will not favor strong-arm measures against a State, on the ground that it is "stubborn" and an "obstructionist", if you find that while endeavoring to preserve its integrity and protect its resources, that State has exerted every possible human effort to bring about an amicable agreement with the State which is insisting upon this indefensible raid--an agreement which doubtless would long ago have been effected but for the determination of the latter to force this legislation--and has at all times been and is now prepared to join with that State and with all of the interested States in a fair settlement of the Colorado River controversy.

You will not support the measure if you find that its enactment could only plunge the States into wasteful and time-consuming litigation, instead of bringing about the early development and utilization of the latent resources of a great river.

That you will find these things to be true, we have perfect faith. We only ask that you examine the record carefully and impartially, and inform yourself thoroughly. The question is of such tremendous import that you can scarcely afford to pass legislative judgment without doing so.

The testimony presented before the House and Senate committees, analyzed and summarized in the reports of Representative Leatherwood of Utah, Representative Douglas of Arizona, and Senator Ashurst of Arizona, will prove of great value.

Very sincerely and earnestly yours,

Mulford Winson

Secretary Colorado River Commission of Arizona,
and President Arizona State Senate.