

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
Washington

FEB 25, 1952

Dear Senator Connally:

The Department of Defense, including the Joint Chiefs of Staff, supports the Resolution now before your Committee which would approve the agreement between the United States and Canada with respect to the St. Lawrence Seaway project. In recommending its adoption, the Department of Defense would like to point out the following important advantages to the national defense that this project offers.

First, the Seaway, when completed, will increase the flow of high-grade iron ore for the production of steel for munitions, and other purposes, from the Labrador-Quebec area which is now being developed. Unless the Seaway is built, obtaining ore from this new source will present serious problems of transportation, including inland transportation and the hazards of wartime sea transportation. On the other hand, the accessibility of the Labrador-Quebec area made possible by the Seaway would supplement our present supply and would furnish the required substantial additional source to augment the greatly diminished reserves of open pit ore from present sources.

Secondly, the power project to be constructed in connection with the Seaway will provide additional sources of necessary cheap power in a region whose industrial potential is vital to our mobilization program.

Thirdly, the Seaway will facilitate the transportation of munitions to overseas bases. For example, it would shorten by 1000 miles the open sea route to the British Isles.

Fourthly, the Seaway will provide access to additional ship-building and repair facilities which are always very necessary in time of war for our supremacy on the high seas.

Since the Seaway project is most important to our national security, I consider participation by our Government in the management of the Seaway to be of the utmost importance. Only by having an equal voice in the planning, building, and operation of the Seaway project can we insure that we will maintain in our own hands

some measure of control over the development of this important natural resource. I urge the Committee that the project be approved in order that its timely construction may be soon achieved through the mutual efforts of Canada and the United States.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ William C. Foster

ACTING

Honorable Tom Connally ✕  
Chairman, Foreign Relations Committee  
United States Senate