

ANNEX BUNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington 25, D.C.

(Proposed Letter)



My dear Senator Wiley:

This is in response to your request for the views of this Department on S. 589, a bill "Providing for creation of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation to construct part of the Saint Lawrence Seaway in United States territory in the interest of national security; authorizing the Corporation to consummate certain arrangements with the Saint Lawrence Seaway Authority of Canada relative to construction and operation of the seaway; empowering the Corporation to finance the United States share of the seaway cost on a self-liquidating basis; to establish cooperation with Canada in the control and operation of the Saint Lawrence Seaway; to authorize negotiations with Canada of an agreement on tolls; and for other purposes."

This bill proposes to set up a Government corporation whose function will be to construct deep-water navigation works in the International Rapids section of the St. Lawrence River and to operate and maintain such works in coordination with the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority of Canada. The authority to proceed with this work is conditioned upon (1) satisfactory assurance given by the Canadian Authority that it will complete the Canadian portion of the St. Lawrence Seaway and (2) satisfactory assurance that a licensee of the Federal Power Commission will, in conjunction with an appropriate agency of Canada, construct the dams and power works approved by the International Joint Commission in its order of October 29, 1952.

The Bill thus recognizes the need for the development of the St. Lawrence for both navigation and power. With both of these objectives we heartily agree.

1. The interest of this Department in the navigation project is auxiliary to its investigatory and research functions relating to the availability of minerals, and the