

TESTIMONY
BY

CONGRESSMAN JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY
VA, HUD, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
MAY 4, 1993

**MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE,
I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE
YOU TODAY. I AM TESTIFYING THIS MORNING ON A
MATTER THAT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO ME AND
MY CONSTITUENTS ---THE CLEAN UP OF BOSTON HARBOR.
AS YOU ALL MAY KNOW, BOSTON HARBOR HAS
VIRTUALLY BECOME A HOUSEHOLD NAME ACROSS THE
NATION.**

**SOME HAVE TERMED BOSTON HARBOR AS THE DIRTIEST
HARBOR IN THE UNITED STATES. IN FACT, THE LAST
TWO PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS HAVE USED BOSTON
HARBOR AS AN EXAMPLE OF ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER,**

-- WITH ITS CLEANUP IN DESPERATE NEED OF FEDERAL SUPPORT. I AM HERE THIS MORNING TO REQUEST \$100 MILLION FOR THE CLEAN UP OF BOSTON HARBOR -- WHICH IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS IN THE NATION.

IN ADDITION, THE CLEANUP OF WASTEWATER DISCHARGES TO BOSTON HARBOR IS ONE OF THE LARGEST PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS IN NEW ENGLAND.

THE BOSTON HARBOR CLEAN UP PROJECT IS MANAGED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS RESOURCES AUTHORITY (MWRA) AND IS PAID FOR BY 2.5 MILLION CITIZENS IN 61 COMMUNITIES IN MASSACHUSETTS. LATER THIS AFTERNOON THIS DISTINGUISHED SUBCOMMITTEE WILL HEAR DOUGLAS MACDONALD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MWRA, OFFER TESTIMONY ON THIS CRUCIAL ISSUE. ALTHOUGH SUBSTANTIAL EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO CONTROL COSTS, THE TOTAL COST OF THIS IMPORTANT

PROJECT IS ABOUT \$6 BILLION BY THE YEAR 1999. I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT \$4.5 BILLION OF THIS IS REQUIRED TO MEET FEDERALLY MANDATED ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS.

DURING THE 1970'S AND EARLY 1980'S SIMILAR PROJECTS ACROSS THE NATION HAVE RECEIVED BETWEEN 55% AND 75% FEDERAL FUNDING UNDER THE CONSTRUCTION GRANTS PROGRAM OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT. BUT MR. CHAIRMAN THE BOSTON HARBOR CLEANUP PROJECT HAS ONLY RECEIVED A DISPROPORTIONATE 8% FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THIS ESSENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE BURDEN OF THIS PROJECT IS ON THE RATEPAYERS. IN MY OPINION, THIS IS TERRIBLY UNFAIR. THE MAJOR PORTION OF THIS PROJECT IS FINANCED BY THE MWRA ISSUANCE OF REVENUE BONDS

SECURED AND REPAID WITH INTEREST BY RATE REVENUES EXACTED FROM THE RATEPAYERS. HOUSEHOLD BILLS HAVE GONE UP BY 289%, COMPARED TO A NATIONAL INCREASE OF 38%.

TODAY, RATEPAYERS IN THE MWRA DISTRICT PAY THE HIGHEST RATES IN THE NATION AND THERE IS NO RELIEF IN SIGHT. FUTURE HOUSEHOLD RATE PROJECTIONS AVERAGE INCREASES OF 18% ANNUALLY THROUGH 1999. WITHOUT FEDERAL RELIEF, THIS WILL BRING RATES TO \$1200 PER FAMILY, WITH NO PROMISE THAT THERE WILL BE AN END TO THE UPWARD SPIRAL. WHAT FAMILY CAN AFFORD THESE TYPES OF OUTRAGEOUS BILLS?

MR. CHAIRMAN IN MASSACHUSETTS THIS IS CAUSING SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR RATEPAYERS WHO ARE FACED WITH THE DIFFICULTY OF PAYING ESCALATING RATES

ALONG WITH THEIR MORTGAGES, FOOD AND HEATING BILLS. MY CONSTITUENTS IN SOME CASES HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN PAYING THEIR WATER AND SEWER BILLS OR PUTTING FOOD ON THE TABLE. OVER 100,000 HOUSEHOLDS IN OUR SERVICE AREA HAVE LIMITED INCOMES -- AND PAYMENTS OF THESE WATER AND SEWER BILLS ARE IN DIRECT COMPETITION WITH OTHER BASIC LIFE NECESSITIES.

TO THEIR GREAT CREDIT, THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTS FUNDING OF THIS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT PROJECT. THAT IS BECAUSE THE BOSTON HARBOR PROJECT EPITOMIZES THE STATE OF WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEMS THAT HAVE BEEN BADLY NEGLECTED ACROSS THE NATION AND THEREFORE DESERVES ASSISTANCE.

I FEEL SO STRONGLY ABOUT THIS ISSUE THAT I HAVE

**COME BEFORE YOU TODAY TO PERSONALLY REQUEST
YOUR SUPPORT.**

**I RECOGNIZE THAT THIS IS A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT
BUDGET YEAR AND THAT YOU MUST DEAL WITH A
BROAD RANGE OF WORTHY COMPETING GOALS WITHIN
YOUR SUBCOMMITTEE. BUT IN LIGHT OF THE GREAT
NEED IN MY DISTRICT, I AM REQUESTING THAT \$100
MILLION BE INCLUDED FOR THE CLEANUP OF BOSTON
HARBOR IN FISCAL YEAR 1994. QUITE FRANKLY, MR.
CHAIRMAN, I WISH I COULD ASK FOR MORE; BECAUSE
WE NEED MORE.**

**YOUR SUBCOMMITTEE'S SUPPORT IN THE PAST HAS
SHOWN A DEEP COMMITMENT TO RESTORING BOSTON**

HARBOR FOR THE SAKE OF THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH, RECREATION AND THE ECONOMICS OF A CLEAN AND SAFE HARBOR FOR BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS AND OUR NATION. I THANK THE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR LISTENING TO MY TESTIMONY TODAY AND HOPE THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE YOUR COMMITMENT TO BOSTON HARBOR.