

Statement by the Honorable Les AuCoin  
Before the U. S. House of Representatives  
May 6, 1977

A SOLUTION FOR THE BULL RUN WATERSHED

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to join my distinguished colleague and friend, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. Duncan) in cosponsoring a bill, H.R. \_\_\_\_\_, a bill to clear up a legal cloud over the Bull Run Watershed, near Portland, Oregon. It's a bill that also prescribes what I believe to be sound, sensible and fair new rules governing the use of the watershed.

I commend my colleague from Oregon's Third District for his work on this legislation. My analysis of the bill is that it protects the watershed, a source of water for nearly a million persons in the Portland region, and still permits limited other activity, such as recreation and regulated logging.

The bill also gives the City of Portland, which owns the water from Bull Run, substantial consultation powers with the Secretary of Agriculture in setting management policies for the area.

The issue with Bull Run must always be protection of the extraordinary water quality of the watershed. All other considerations are secondary. I believe the secondary activities I mentioned earlier can be accomodated under this bill without harming the quality of the watershed. However, I shall be open to suggestions or proposed amendments that would strengthen the bill in a responsible way.

In the meantime, this legislation is a solid effort to permit the unharmed recreational activity of hikers and outdoorsmen, handicapped children's programs, and other activities that have been abruptly halted by a severe court interpretation of the 1909 Bull Run Watershed Act.

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