

Planning Assistance Is ^{5/19/66} Approved for Carter Creek

Congressman Bert Bandstra (Dem., Iowa) announced today that the U. S. Soil Conservation Service has approved planning assistance for the Carter Creek Watershed in Davis and Appanoose Counties.

Bandstra, from Iowa's Fourth Congressional District, said the action removes the possibility of a serious delay in drafting detailed plans for the project, which covers about 24,500 acres.

"The threat of delay," he explained, "stemmed from a limitation imposed by the Bureau of the Budget on S.C.S. watershed planning approvals for the 1966 fiscal year, which ends June 30."

THE BUDGET BUREAU limitation restricted S.C.S. to providing planning aid for only 10 watershed projects during the remainder of fiscal year 1966, Bandstra said.

"It is fortunate that Carter Creek was among the 10 projects receiving planning approval before June 30," Bandstra added, pointing out that S.C.S. has received nearly 30 applications for planning aid.

"If the Carter Creek application had not been approved at this time, there would have been a delay of at least three months and possibly longer in planning for the project," he said.

Bandstra explained that planning approval was needed so that S.C.S. can provide technical assistance in drafting a watershed work plan, the next step in developing the Carter Creek project.

"IT SHOULD take from eight months to a year to complete the work plan," Bandstra said, adding that preliminary planning already has been done on the local level.

The local sponsors of the project, he noted, are the Davis and Appanoose County Conservation Districts, the Davis and Appanoose County Boards of Supervisors and the Town of Moulton.

Bandstra said he has been in touch with S. C. S. officials at least once a week regarding the Carter Creek planning application since it arrived in Washington on March 4.

In a statement to the House of Representatives on March 22, Bandstra declared that the Budget Bureau limitation on watershed planning for fiscal year 1966 should be removed.

He also urged removal, by Congressional action if necessary, of Budget Bureau limitations on both planning and construction of watershed projects during fiscal year 1967, which begins July 1.

THE FISCAL year 1967 limitations are "extremely severe" and would "virtually cut in half" the scope of the present S.C.S. watershed program, Bandstra warned in his statement of March 22.

"The House of Representatives took action last month to remove the Budget Bureau limitations for fiscal year 1967 and I am hopeful that the Senate will do likewise," he said today.

"It is still my feeling that the limitation on watershed planning for fiscal year 1966 should

be lifted," Bandstra added, noting that on March 29 he introduced a bill to remove the limitation.

Bandstra's bill (H. J. Res. 994) provides that, so long as funds are available, "no limitation shall be imposed on the number of watershed planning authorizations during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1966."

More than 20 Congressmen have introduced bills identical to H. J. Res. 994 in the House. Senator Birch Bayh (Dem., Indiana) also has introduced an identical measure in the Senate.