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WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT--SAVANNAH HARBOR DEEPENING PROJECT

<bullet> Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the Water Resources Development Act that was passed by the Senate on Monday, April 19, 1999. I apologize for the tardy nature of my remarks, but I have been inundated with requests from my constituents to clarify the language regarding this project. I hope the Chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will help clarify the intent of the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project authorization that appears in Section 101 of the 1999 Water Resources Development Act.

Mr. CHAFEE. I will try.

Mr. HOLLINGS. It is my understanding that this legislation does not exempt affected Federal, State, regional, and local entities from their independent legal duties to propose and evaluate navigation improvement projects in compliance with the requirements of applicable law; including the National Environmental Protection Act, the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as well as the laws of South Carolina and Georgia.

Mr. CHAFEE. That is correct.

Mr. HOLLINGS. I also understand that the concurrence of the federal agencies in the implementation plan and mitigation plan will not compromise or impair those legal requirements. Is that correct?

Mr. CHAFEE. That is correct.

Mr. HOLLINGS. And I further understand that authorization of the project is contingent upon all applicable legal requirements being met. Is that correct?

Mr. CHAFEE. That is correct.

Mr. HOLLINGS. I thank the Chairman for the opportunity to clarify these understandings.<bullet>