

Calendar No. 1530

73D CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
No. 1428

BRIDGE ACROSS OHIO RIVER AT WELLSBURG, W.VA

JUNE 6 (calendar day, JUNE 14), 1934.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. SHEPPARD, from the Committee on Commerce, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 3756]

The Committee on Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3756) authorizing the Brookewell Bridge Co. to construct, maintain, and operate a toll bridge across the Ohio River at or near Wellsburg, W.Va., having considered the same, report favorably thereon and recommend that the bill do pass without amendment.

The bill has the approval of the Departments of War and Agriculture as will appear by the annexed communications.

WAR DEPARTMENT, June 13, 1934.

Respectfully returned to the Chairman Committee on Commerce, United States Senate.

So far as the interests committed to this Department are concerned I know of no objection to the favorable consideration of the accompanying bill, S. 3756, Seventy-third Congress, second session, authorizing the Brookewell Bridge Co. to construct, maintain, and operate a toll bridge across the Ohio River at or near Wellsburg, W.Va.

HENRY H. WOODRING,
Acting Secretary of War.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D.C., June 13, 1934.

HON. HUBERT D. STEPHENS,
Chairman Committee on Commerce, United States Senate.

DEAR SENATOR: Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of June 8, transmitting a copy of a bill, S. 3756, with request that the Committee be furnished with such suggestions touching its merits and the propriety of its passage as the Department might deem appropriate.

This bill would create the Brookewell Bridge Co. and would authorize said company to construct, maintain, and operate a bridge and approaches thereto across the Ohio River between a point at or near Wellsburg, W.Va., and a point opposite in the State of Ohio. The location indicated for the proposed bridge

would constitute an interstate connection across the Ohio River on United States Highway Route No. 22, which is an interstate route on the systems of Federal-aid highways approved for the States of Ohio and West Virginia.

The proposed bridge company would be composed of the mayor of the city of Wellsburg and his successors in office, the president of the county court of Brooke County and his successors in office, and seven citizens of Brooke County, W.Va. Neither the State of Ohio nor any subdivision thereof would have any representative on the personnel of said company. Furthermore, the company would be composed of only two public officials and seven private citizens, with authority vested in the bridge company so constituted to fill any vacancy which may occur in the personnel thereof by majority vote of the other members. It would appear, therefore, that a bridge company so constituted is essentially a private concern, and that the construction and operation of the bridge by such company would be essentially a private enterprise.

It is the view of the Department that a private toll bridge should not be authorized across the Ohio River at this point on this interstate route on the system of Federal-aid highways. It, therefore, recommends against favorable action on the bill.

Sincerely yours,

H. A. WALLACE, *Secretary.*

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