



REGIONAL PLAN ASSOCIATION, INC.

... a research and planning agency supported by voluntary membership to promote the coordinated development of the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut Metropolitan Region.

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REGIONAL PLAN ASSOCIATION URGES ROCKEFELLER TO MEET UDALL, HUGHES TO SET UP INTERGOVERNMENTAL PLANNING FOR HUDSON

Regional Plan Association today urged Governor Rockefeller to meet with Secretary of Interior Udall and New Jersey's Governor Hughes to quickly establish an intergovernmental planning commission for the Hudson River.

The Association told the New York State Hudson River Valley Commission--a state planning body for the river--that it would be both fair and expedient to include federal, county and municipal representatives on the commission.

It is fair, the Association said, because there is a national interest to be represented as well as state and local interests. Persons living close to the river and so having the greater interest would have greater representation on an intergovernmental commission than those farther away because they would have local as well as state and federal representatives.

It is expedient to include federal representation, according to the Association, because any plan for the Hudson will require federal agreement if it is to be effective, since some of the most important legal powers over the river's development reside in the federal government, not in the state.

Regional Plan suggested that Rockefeller, Udall and Hughes could set up the intergovernmental commission quickly and have a plan completed within a year after its organization. If they act fast, this would provide a plan about as soon as legislation giving anyone authority over river development is likely to pass, the Association said. In the meantime, there should be a presumption to delay any major development that is not needed immediately-- if the plan is begun expeditiously.

Albert W. Merck, a member of the Board of Regional Plan Association and former Chairman of the New Jersey Committee's Open Space Subcommittee, spoke for the Association, which is a 36-year-old citizen planning group dedicated to an efficient, attractive and varied three-state metropolitan area surrounding the Port of New York.

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Note: Copies of the statement filed by Regional Plan Association with the New York State Hudson River Valley Commission are enclosed.