July 20, 1951

Honorable Dennis Chavez  
Chairman  
Senate Public Works Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.  

My dear Mr. Chairman:

You may recall that on February 8th I wrote to you and asked that consideration be given by your Committee to holding a hearing on S. 527, a bill I introduced for the redevelopment of the waters of the Niagara for public power purposes. I indicated to you at the time that I would appreciate it very much if the Committee would find occasion to give this measure the attention that its importance to our national defense, in my judgment, merits.

In subsequent informal contacts with the Committee I made clear that a first priority was the authorization of an engineering survey of this project and the appropriation of funds therefor. I pointed out that regardless of the final form in which my bill emerged from Congress, it would be necessary to have the survey made.

Some weeks ago your Committee saw fit to authorize by resolution the Niagara survey referred to. As you may know, there is now pending before the Appropriations Committee an item in the Civil Functions Bill for this Survey. I have personally appeared before the Appropriations Committee and have written to Senator McKellar in support of this item.

Since the above steps have been taken and there is good prospect that this survey will be appropriated for as well as authorized, I am now suggesting that we proceed to the consideration of my bill. I would be gratified if you would set a hearing at an early date convenient to your Committee. I would like sufficient notice so that I could inform those who might be interested in appearing in behalf of this vital legislation which is so integral a part of the over-all program for providing adequate power for our expanding defense and industrial mobilization needs.

I hope to discuss this matter with you personally in the immediate future.

Very sincerely yours,