June 14, 1950

Honorable Tom Connally
Chairman
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Chairman:

Your Committee has before it, as you know, the treaty sent to the Senate by the President for the redevelopment of the Niagara and for the preservation of the scenic beauties of the Niagara Falls. I am, as you would know, deeply interested in this treaty. I am aware, of course, of the large number of items now on the agenda of the Committee and of the diversion of effort required by the current investigation of the State Department. I also know the present concentration of the Committee on the military aid program.

Nevertheless, I would hope that some early date can be set for the holding of hearings on the Niagara treaty. This is a matter of great concern to my State and to all the States of the northeast. It is a matter in which the Administration is deeply interested.

New York faces a power shortage within the very near future. Until the treaty is approved, no definitive consideration can be given to the problem of the development of this power. I am very hopeful that you can bring this matter to the attention of the Committee and arrange for hearings so that a report can be made to the Senate.

As far as I am aware, there is virtually no opposition to this treaty. The private power interests of New York State have indicated their support of this treaty. I understand that my colleague, Senator Ives, has expressed his support of it. A number of Senators from nearby States have indicated their advocacy of this international accord. I think, therefore, that the hearings would occupy very little time and disposition could be made without involving any considerable efforts by the Committee.

I would very much like to testify on this matter in the course of such hearings as are held.

Very sincerely yours,