

The Burlington Journal

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 1961

Martin Cites Reasons for Skagit Dredging to U.S. Congressmen

Additional support for dredging the Skagit River east to Concrete to facilitate shallow barge transportation has been voiced by Senator Fred Martin.

Martin has written letters to Senators Jackson and Magnuson and Representative Jack Westland citing reasons the project should be given serious consideration.

The Senator's letters follows:

"I believe that a proposal has been made to you that the Skagit River be dredged as far as Concrete, Washington, to permit the use of shallow draft vessels and barges. This proposal has a great deal of merit for many reasons which I list as follows:

1. "It will substantially lower the cost of transporting cement from the plant at Concrete to market and enable it to better compete with other plants more centrally located and will perhaps insure that the Lone Star cement plant at Concrete can operate full time which it is unable to do at the present time because of the handicap of high freight rates.

2. "It will also make feasible and profitable the transportation of lime rock from the large deposits in the upper Skagit Valley to various other cement plants in the state.

3. "It will make profitable the mining the transportation of marble, silica, tale, olivine and other non-metallic ores of which there are large deposits in the upper Skagit Valley.

4. "It will lower the cost of transporting alder, cottonwood, maple and other pulp wood varieties from the upper Skagit Valley to markets.

5. "The dredging of the Skagit River channel would have immense value for flood control as it would greatly reduce stream bank

erosion above Sedro-Woolley thereby substantially reduce siltation of the river bed from Sedro-Woolley to its mouth.

"I sincerely believe that the dredging of the Skagit River as proposed would be of great permanent value to all Northwest Washington."