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## **Press Release - Muskie Urges Increased Planning to Protect Saco Valley**

Edmund S. Muskie

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# MAINE FOR MUSKIE

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For Immediate Release  
SEPTEMBER 28, 1970

## MUSKIE URGES INCREASED PLANNING TO PROTECT SACO VALLEY

Senator Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) said today that steps must be taken soon "to protect the Saco Valley from heedless land development" or "the fundamental values of the Saco will be lost in urban and suburban blight."

"We must develop a system of orderly and rational planning now for the entire Saco River corridor--planning for proper land use; planning for business opportunities that will be consistent with protecting the environment; planning for the interests of residents as well as visitors," the Senator told a meeting of the York County Regional Planning Commission at Hollis Center, Maine.

Speaking of the Saco area, the Senator said that "if the land is covered with cottage lots, public access will be relinquished and the river will be robbed of its character forever.

"If industrial parks and housing developments spring up in an uncontrolled fashion, the woods and fields and river communities which give us pride will be abandoned.

"We cannot save the Saco simply by building sewage treatment facilities although they are important...and the \$6 million Maine should receive next year in Federal grants will help us clean up the mess we have already created.

"We must also change the very habits that permitted us to create a mess in the first place--habits of parochialism, of sovereign jealousies, of refusals to delegate responsibility to more effective and broad-based planning authorities."

Senator Muskie said that the work of organizations such as the planning commission is crucial because--

"We cannot maintain all of our rivers as complete sanctuaries.

"We cannot behave as if economic development was unnecessary.

"We cannot afford to reduce problems of conservation and growth to 'either-or' choices."

The Senator said that a balance must be achieved "between conflicting but equally legitimate interests. I recognize that to achieve that balance may at one time be both the most difficult and most unavoidable task man has ever faced--not only along the Saco--but with respect to every environmental dilemma we face in Maine--as in America--at the beginning of this critical decade."