



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 10, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy,

As strong supporters of National Heritage Areas, we ask you to consider the role America's National Heritage Areas can and should play in our nation's recovery. We request that language be included in any stimulus or recovery package to allow the National Park Service (NPS) to temporarily waive the matching requirements for all National Heritage Areas in Fiscal Year 2020 and Fiscal Year 2021.

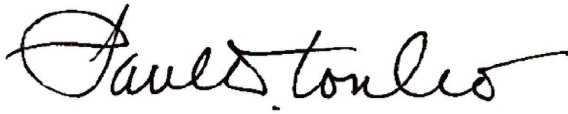
As corporate, local and state governments commitments lag in the face of this economic turmoil, many National Heritage Areas will find it difficult to secure the required one-to-one match for federal funds. A temporary waiver will ensure every NHA can spend their appropriated federal funds without delay and will not be held back in helping their communities cope with this unprecedented situation. Many NHAs have quickly adapted their existing grant programs to mirror federal and state efforts, making funds available to their local partners to maintain payroll and cover non-discretionary expenses like utilities as museums, visitor centers, and educational programs have closed. These partners are unable to generate matching resources for NHA dollars at the time that they need the NHA funds the most. This temporary waiver would have no impact on the federal budget, as it would require no additional funds; it merely waives the requirement for non-federal matching contributions. NPS has also confirmed that without this waiver their hands are tied so congressional action is necessary.

America's National Heritage Areas revitalize local communities through heritage preservation and tourism. They leverage an average of \$5.50 in local, state and private funding to advance crucial community projects. National Heritage Areas have accomplished this work in both urban and rural areas where other means of support were limited or non-existent, restoring both a sense of hope and pride of place. In these times, the role they play in stimulating local economies will be more important than ever before.

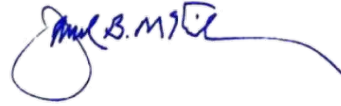
Again, we respectfully ask you to include language in any stimulus or recovery package to allow NPS to temporarily waive the matching requirements for all National Heritage Areas in Fiscal Year 2020 and Fiscal Year 2021.

Thank you for the consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Paul D. Tonko



David B. McKinley, PE

Cheri Bustos
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Brian Fitzpatrick
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Peter Welch
Danny K. Davis
Debbie Dingell
Joseph D. Morelle
Brian Higgins
Mike Bost
Lori Trahan
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A. Donald McEachin
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Conor Lamb
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James P. McGovern
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Don Young
Daniel T. Kildee
Ben Ray Lujan
Seth Moulton
David Cicilline
Albio Sires
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Darren Soto