



Protecting America's Heritage Areas

H.R. 1316, 117th Congress

Sponsors: Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY) & Rep. David McKinley (R-WV)

"We are all trustees for the American people, custodians of the American heritage."

❖ John F. Kennedy, 1962 State of the Union

Heritage Areas Tell America's Stories

- National Heritage Areas are sites of cultural, historical or natural significance. Supported by public-private partnerships, they shine a light on, and give back to, their local communities
- Partnerships bring local, state & private stakeholders together in Congressional districts across the U.S. to shine light on previously untold stories & bring new voices to the fore

Major Economic & Social Benefits

- Cultural heritage tourism adds more than **\$192 billion** to the U.S. economy every year
- Public & private partners match an avg. **\$5.50 for every \$1** in federal funding
- Sites support more than 148,000 jobs every year, and that's not all:
 - **53,000 volunteers** engage with **55 established heritage areas**
 - **200 education programs** that reach **more than 600,000 people** a year
 - 880 miles of new trails & nearly 200 miles of preserved waterways & historic canals
 - Water and air quality improvements through restoration projects



Public and private partners match an average of **\$5.50** for every **\$1** in federal funding for heritage sites.

Congress Can Do Better!

- The process for establishing, funding and managing National Heritage Areas is haphazard
- As a result, these treasured sites are being underutilized and their future is uncertain

H.R. 1316: The National Heritage Area Act

- Establishes, for the first time, standard criteria for designating new National Heritage Areas and creates a rigorous process for maintaining existing National Heritage Areas
- Modernizes the program to allow for long-term sustainability and strong accountability
- Defines an oversight structure that will allow these popular public-private partnerships to better preserve the nation's heritage and spur economic growth with minimal federal support

There are 55 National Heritage Areas across the country. Support your local heritage area today!

Connect with Representative Tonko on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @RepPaulTonko