

are doing the Pacific Coast Trail, and it becomes a lifetime effort for them. They plan it, and they arrange with friends to meet and do it. Whether you can do all of it, like Mr. BISHOP probably could, and you could, or some of it, which I could do, it is an opportunity out there that awaits us, our kids, our grandkids, and future generations.

So, Mr. NOLAN, I have got to say that it has been an enormous pleasure to serve with you in Congress. You are one of the most direct and forthright people whom I have seen here. I think as a piece of legislation to pass upon the soon departure of your second round here in Congress, this is really something that generations of Americans, generations of Minnesotans, and generations of Vermonters are going to have very, very fond feelings, look back and thank you, RICK NOLAN, for taking up the leadership on this tribute to our land and to our people.

I want to thank you for letting me be part of this effort.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will gently remind Members that they need to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask for support of this legislation. I just want to say if it is really 4,600 miles, then that is the equivalent of a round trip between San Francisco and Honolulu, a distance which I frequently fly and don't actually enjoy sitting down.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I have no further speakers. I ask for support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to have been able to work on a bill that makes the assumption that someone actually does want to walk to Vermont. If indeed you can find that individual, we will provide an opportunity for it to take place.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have five legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1026, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUSQUEHANNA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2991) to establish the Susquehanna National Heritage Area in the State of Pennsylvania, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2991

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Susquehanna National Heritage Area Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **HERITAGE AREA.**—The term "Heritage Area" means the Susquehanna National Heritage Area established by section 3(a).

(2) **LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.**—The term "local coordinating entity" means the local coordinating entity for the Heritage Area designated by section 4(a).

(3) **MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—The term "management plan" means the plan developed by the local coordinating entity under section 5(a).

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) **STATE.**—The term "State" means the State of Pennsylvania.

SEC. 3. SUSQUEHANNA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established the Susquehanna National Heritage Area in the State.

(b) **BOUNDARIES.**—The Heritage Area shall include Lancaster and York Counties, Pennsylvania.

SEC. 4. DESIGNATION OF LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.

(a) **LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.**—The Susquehanna Heritage Corporation, a nonprofit organization established under the laws of the State, shall be the local coordinating entity for the Heritage Area.

(b) **AUTHORITIES OF LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.**—The local coordinating entity may, for purposes of preparing and implementing the management plan—

(1) prepare reports, studies, interpretive exhibits and programs, historic preservation projects, and other activities recommended in the management plan for the Heritage Area;

(2) make grants to the State, political subdivisions of the State, nonprofit organizations, and other persons;

(3) enter into cooperative agreements with the State, political subdivisions of the State, nonprofit organizations, and other organizations;

(4) hire and compensate staff;

(5) obtain funds or services from any source, including funds and services provided under any Federal program or law, in which case the Federal share of the cost of any activity assisted using Federal funds provided for National Heritage Areas shall not be more than 50 percent; and

(6) contract for goods and services.

(c) **DUTIES OF LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.**—To further the purposes of the Heritage Area, the local coordinating entity shall—

(1) prepare a management plan for the Heritage Area in accordance with section 5;

(2) give priority to the implementation of actions, goals, and strategies set forth in the management plan, including assisting units of government and other persons in—

(A) carrying out programs and projects that recognize and protect important resource values in the Heritage Area;

(B) encouraging economic viability in the Heritage Area in accordance with the goals of the management plan;

(C) establishing and maintaining interpretive exhibits in the Heritage Area;

(D) developing heritage-based recreational and educational opportunities for residents and visitors in the Heritage Area;

(E) increasing public awareness of and appreciation for the natural, historic, and cultural resources of the Heritage Area;

(F) restoring historic buildings that are—

(i) located in the Heritage Area; and

(ii) related to the themes of the Heritage Area; and

(G) installing throughout the Heritage Area clear, consistent, and appropriate signs identifying public access points and sites of interest;

(3) consider the interests of diverse units of government, businesses, tourism officials, private property owners, and nonprofit groups within the Heritage Area in developing and implementing the management plan;

(4) conduct public meetings at least semi-annually regarding the development and implementation of the management plan; and

(5) for any fiscal year for which Federal funds provided for National Heritage Areas are expended for the Heritage Area—

(A) submit to the Secretary an annual report that describes—

(i) the accomplishments of the local coordinating entity;

(ii) the expenses and income of the local coordinating entity; and

(iii) the entities to which the local coordinating entity made any grants;

(B) make available for audit all records relating to the expenditure of the Federal funds and any matching funds; and

(C) require, with respect to all agreements authorizing the expenditure of Federal funds by other organizations, that the receiving organizations make available for audit all records relating to the expenditure of the Federal funds.

(d) **PROHIBITION ON ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The local coordinating entity shall not use Federal funds provided for National Heritage Areas to acquire real property or any interest in real property.

(2) **OTHER SOURCES.**—Nothing in this Act precludes the local coordinating entity from using funds from other sources for authorized purposes, including the acquisition of real property or any interest in real property.

SEC. 5. MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to carry out this Act, the local coordinating entity shall prepare and submit to the Secretary a management plan for the Heritage Area.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The management plan for the Heritage Area shall—

(1) include comprehensive policies, strategies, and recommendations for the conservation, funding, management, and development of the Heritage Area;

(2) include a description of actions and commitments that governments, private organizations, and citizens will take to protect, enhance, and interpret the natural, historic, scenic, and cultural resources of the Heritage Area;

(3) describe a program of implementation for the management plan that includes—

(A) performance goals and ongoing performance evaluation;

(B) plans for resource protection, enhancement and interpretation; and

(C) specific commitments for implementation that have been made by the local coordinating entity or any government, organization, business or individual;

(4) include an interpretative plan for the Heritage Area;

(5) take into consideration existing State, county, and local plans;

(6) specify the existing and potential sources of funding to protect, manage, and develop the Heritage Area;

(7) include an inventory of the natural, historic, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the Heritage Area relating to the themes of the Heritage Area that should be preserved, restored, managed, developed, or maintained; and

(8) include an analysis of, and recommendations for, ways in which Federal, State, and local programs, may best be coordinated to further the purposes of this Act, including recommendations for the role of the National Park Service in the Heritage Area.

(c) **APPROVAL AND DISAPPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the local coordinating entity submits the management plan to the Secretary, the Secretary shall approve or disapprove the proposed management plan.

(2) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In determining whether to approve or disapprove the management plan, the Secretary shall consider whether—

(A) the local coordinating entity is representative of the diverse interests of the Heritage Area, including governments, natural and historic resource protection organizations, educational institutions, businesses, and recreational organizations;

(B) the local coordinating entity has provided adequate opportunities (including public meetings) for public and governmental involvement in the preparation of the management plan;

(C) the resource protection and interpretation strategies contained in the management plan, if implemented, would adequately protect the natural, historic, and cultural resources of the Heritage Area; and

(D) the management plan is supported by the appropriate State and local officials, the cooperation of which is needed to ensure the effective implementation of the State and local aspects of the management plan.

(3) **DISAPPROVAL AND REVISIONS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If the Secretary disapproves a proposed management plan, the Secretary shall—

(i) advise the local coordinating entity, in writing, of the reasons for the disapproval; and

(ii) make recommendations for revision of the proposed management plan.

(B) **APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.**—The Secretary shall approve or disapprove a revised management plan not later than 180 days after the date on which the revised management plan is submitted.

(d) **APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS.**—The Secretary shall review and approve or disapprove substantial amendments to the management plan in accordance with subsection (c).

SEC. 6. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Nothing in this Act affects the authority of a Federal agency to provide technical or financial assistance under any other law.

(b) **CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.**—The head of any Federal agency planning to conduct activities that may have an impact on the Heritage Area is encouraged to consult and coordinate the activities with the Sec-

retary and the local coordinating entity to the extent practicable.

(c) **OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—Nothing in this Act—

(1) modifies, alters, or amends any law or regulation authorizing a Federal agency to manage Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Federal agency;

(2) limits the discretion of a Federal land manager to implement an approved land use plan within the boundaries of the Heritage Area; or

(3) modifies, alters, or amends any authorized use of Federal land under the jurisdiction of a Federal agency.

SEC. 7. PRIVATE PROPERTY AND REGULATORY PROTECTIONS.

Nothing in this Act—

(1) abridges the rights of any property owner (whether public or private), including the right to refrain from participating in any plan, project, program, or activity conducted within the Heritage Area;

(2) requires any property owner to permit public access (including access by Federal, State, or local agencies) to the property of the property owner, or to modify public access or use of property of the property owner under any other Federal, State, or local law;

(3) alters any duly adopted land use regulation, approved land use plan, or other regulatory authority of any Federal, State, or local agency, or conveys any land use or other regulatory authority to the local coordinating entity;

(4) authorizes or implies the reservation or appropriation of water or water rights;

(5) affects the licensing or relicensing of facilities by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission within the proposed Heritage Area or upstream or downstream from the proposed Heritage Area on the Susquehanna River, including FERC Project No. 405-104;

(6) diminishes the authority of the State to manage fish and wildlife, including the regulation of fishing and hunting within the Heritage Area; or

(7) creates any liability, or affects any liability under any other law, of any private property owner with respect to any person injured on the private property.

SEC. 8. EVALUATION; REPORT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 3 years before the date specified under section 9, the Secretary shall—

(1) conduct an evaluation of the accomplishments of the Heritage Area; and

(2) prepare a report in accordance with subsection (c).

(b) **EVALUATION.**—An evaluation conducted under subsection (a)(1) shall—

(1) assess the progress of the local coordinating entity with respect to—

(A) accomplishing the purposes of this Act for the Heritage Area; and

(B) achieving the goals and objectives of the approved management plan for the Heritage Area;

(2) analyze the Federal, State, local, and private investments in the Heritage Area to determine the leverage and impact of the investments; and

(3) review the management structure, partnership relationships, and funding of the Heritage Area for purposes of identifying the critical components for sustainability of the Heritage Area.

(c) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Based on the evaluation conducted under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall prepare a report that includes recommendations for the future role of the National Park Service, if any, with respect to the Heritage Area.

(2) **SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.**—On completion of the report, the Secretary shall submit the report to—

(A) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 9. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.

The authority of the Secretary to provide assistance under this Act terminates on the date that is 15 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

□ 1700

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER), the author of this particular bill.

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding, but, more importantly, for moving this bill through committee and allowing it to be brought up for a vote today on the floor.

I rise today as the lead sponsor of H.R. 2991, the Susquehanna National Heritage Area Act. I am glad the House is taking up this important bill with bipartisan support from the Pennsylvania delegation.

The concept of the bill is simple. It would make two counties in Pennsylvania, Lancaster and York Counties, both located in south central Pennsylvania, a national heritage area.

National heritage areas are a congressional designation where “natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from human activity shaped by geography,” which describes this area very well. According to the National Park Service, there are currently 49 national heritage areas in 32 States.

I am very proud of the natural beauty that we find in our Pennsylvania communities, particularly in these two counties. We want to ensure we maintain that safe and clean environment into the future for residents and visitors.

The Susquehanna River and its surrounding landscape have played a starring role in American history. Our region’s heritage reflects events and causes that exemplify the American experience, many flowing from the central historical role of the river.

Along the Susquehanna, a tradition of public and private collaboration has

helped our region prosper from heritage and outdoor tourism, and this national heritage area designation will attract more visitors, stimulate our local economy, and preserve natural resources and historical landmarks.

I want to thank the countless local officials and Members of Congress who have worked on this legislation for many years. Without their tireless work and the sustained input and support from the residents of York and Lancaster Counties, we would not be here right now. This was a bottom-up effort led by grassroots support from these communities.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a list of the dozens of local organizations that support this legislation.

The following local organizations support the Susquehanna National Heritage Area Act:

Amishview Inn & Suites/Miller's Smorgasbord/Plain & Fancy Farm; Borough of Columbia; Bube's Brewery; Colony Packaging & Machine; Downtown Inc.; Discover Lancaster; Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County; Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County; Historic York, Inc.; Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Lancaster County Board of Commissioners; Lancaster County Conservancy; Lancaster County Parks & Recreation; Lancaster County Planning Commission; Lancaster Farmland Trust; Landis Valley Museum.

LancasterHistory.org; Long Level Marina; Northern York County Historical & Preservation Society; PPL Corporation; Pennsylvania State Grange; Preservation Pennsylvania; Rivertownes PA USA; Shank's Mare Outfitters; Susquehanna Glass; Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce; York County Board of Commissioners; York County Convention & Visitors Bureau; York County Department of Parks & Recreation; York County Economic Alliance; York County History Center.

Mr. SMUCKER. Again, I urge passage of H.R. 2991.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill to establish the Susquehanna National Heritage Area in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Seen as "a new kind of national park" that leverages public-private partnerships with a focus on regional economic development, the first national heritage area was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan in 1984. Since then, Congress has authorized many successful heritage areas throughout the country, and this model makes a lot of sense for certain regions. However, it has been a while since the House passed a standalone bill to establish a new national heritage area, so this is an encouraging sign.

We appreciate the renewed interest in national heritage areas, particularly since some of my fellow Democratic colleagues have introduced heritage area proposals. We are eager to bring those proposals forward as well.

That said, this is a good bill, and I encourage my colleagues to support its adoption. The communities of Lancaster and York Counties have clearly demonstrated that their region de-

serves recognition as a national heritage area. I would like to congratulate Representative SMUCKER for his leadership on this proposal and Chairman BISHOP for guiding this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am in favor of this particular bill. Heritage areas have been, for us, somewhat problematic in the past. There have been some of those who have looked simply on the Federal Government as a deep pocket to be robbed and used year after year after year. Some of them have ignored private property rights. Some of them have actually superseded legal governments' prerogatives and initiatives.

In each of these areas, Mr. SMUCKER has done an incredibly good job to make sure those problems will not exist. The idea of simply being a funnel for money is not necessarily a part of this particular bill, and he has specifically included the rights of property protection in this bill.

What Mr. SMUCKER has done here is a national heritage area done the right way for the right purpose and the right intent, and I hope, because of the way he has done that, it will not tend to be a problem in the future as heritage areas are re-looked at and renewed at some particular point. I want to commend him not only for taking up the specific issue that is important to his area, but for doing it the right way. That is why I am very happy to support this particular piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, again, I encourage support for this bill, and having no further speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow Members to vote "yes" on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2991, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY OF JAMES WELDON JOHNSON BIRTHPLACE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5005) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special re-

source study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the birthplace of James Weldon Johnson in Jacksonville, Florida, as a unit of the National Park System.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5005

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY OF JAMES WELDON JOHNSON BIRTH- PLACE.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the birthplace of James Weldon Johnson located at Adams & Lee Street in Jacksonville, Florida, as a unit of the National Park System.

(b) STUDY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall conduct the study in accordance with section 100507 of title 54, United States Code.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

- (1) the results of the study; and
- (2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This is a fairly significant but straightforward bill. It simply is asking for a study on the potential of including James Weldon Johnson's birthplace as part of our national park system.

Mr. Johnson was a leader in the civil rights movement of his time. He had many talents. He was a diplomat, executive director of the NAACP, the first African to be a member of The Florida Bar. He has also written songs.

Having a special place in history, it is appropriate that we simply direct the National Park Service to investigate the possibility of adding this to the historical sites of significance within the Park Service system.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LAWSON).

Mr. LAWSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman