

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 262

To establish the Susquehanna National Heritage Area in the State of Pennsylvania, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2019

Mr. SMUCKER (for himself and Mr. PERRY) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To establish the Susquehanna National Heritage Area in the State of Pennsylvania, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Susquehanna National  
5 Heritage Area Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **HERITAGE AREA.**—The term “Heritage  
9 Area” means the Susquehanna National Heritage  
10 Area established by section 3(a).

1           (2) LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.—The term  
2           “local coordinating entity” means the local coordi-  
3           nating entity for the Heritage Area designated by  
4           section 4(a).

5           (3) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term “manage-  
6           ment plan” means the plan developed by the local  
7           coordinating entity under section 5(a).

8           (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
9           the Secretary of the Interior.

10          (5) STATE.—The term “State” means the State  
11          of Pennsylvania.

12 **SEC. 3. SUSQUEHANNA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.**

13          (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Sus-  
14          quehanna National Heritage Area in the State.

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

17 **SEC. 4. DESIGNATION OF LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.**

18          (a) LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.—The Susque-  
19          hanna Heritage Corporation, a nonprofit organization es-  
20          tablished under the laws of the State, shall be the local  
21          coordinating entity for the Heritage Area.

22          (b) AUTHORITIES OF LOCAL COORDINATING ENTI-  
23          TY.—The local coordinating entity may, for purposes of  
24          preparing and implementing the management plan—

1           (1) prepare reports, studies, interpretive exhib-  
2           its and programs, historic preservation projects, and  
3           other activities recommended in the management  
4           plan for the Heritage Area;

5           (2) make grants to the State, political subdivi-  
6           sions of the State, nonprofit organizations, and  
7           other persons;

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

11          (4) hire and compensate staff;

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

18          (6) contract for goods and services.

19          (c) DUTIES OF LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.—To  
20          further the purposes of the Heritage Area, the local co-  
21          ordinating entity shall—

22                 (1) prepare a management plan for the Herit-  
23                 age Area in accordance with section 5;

24                 (2) give priority to the implementation of ac-  
25                 tions, goals, and strategies set forth in the manage-

1       ment plan, including assisting units of government  
2       and other persons in—

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

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

9               (C) establishing and maintaining interpre-  
10              tive exhibits in the Heritage Area;

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

14              (E) increasing public awareness of and ap-  
15              preciation for the natural, historic, and cultural  
16              resources of the Heritage Area;

17              (F) restoring historic buildings that are—

18                      (i) located in the Heritage Area; and

19                      (ii) related to the themes of the Herit-  
20              age Area; and

21              (G) installing throughout the Heritage  
22              Area clear, consistent, and appropriate signs  
23              identifying public access points and sites of in-  
24              terest;

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

6           (4) conduct public meetings at least semiannu-  
7 ally regarding the development and implementation  
8 of the management plan; and

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

12           (A) submit to the Secretary an annual re-  
13 port that describes—

14           (i) the accomplishments of the local  
15 coordinating entity;

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

18           (iii) the entities to which the local co-  
19 ordinating entity made any grants;

20           (B) make available for audit all records re-  
21 lating to the expenditure of the Federal funds  
22 and any matching funds; and

23           (C) require, with respect to all agreements  
24 authorizing the expenditure of Federal funds by  
25 other organizations, that the receiving organiza-

1           tions make available for audit all records relat-  
2           ing to the expenditure of the Federal funds.

3           (d) PROHIBITION ON ACQUISITION OF REAL PROP-  
4     ERTY.—

5           (1) IN GENERAL.—The local coordinating entity  
6           shall not use Federal funds provided for National  
7           Heritage Areas to acquire real property or any inter-  
8           est in real property.

9           (2) OTHER SOURCES.—Nothing in this Act pre-  
10          cludes the local coordinating entity from using funds  
11          from other sources for authorized purposes, includ-  
12          ing the acquisition of real property or any interest  
13          in real property.

14     **SEC. 5. MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

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

20          (b) CONTENTS.—The management plan for the Her-  
21          itage Area shall—

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

1           (2) include a description of actions and commit-  
2           ments that governments, private organizations, and  
3           citizens will take to protect, enhance, and interpret  
4           the natural, historic, scenic, and cultural resources  
5           of the Heritage Area;

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

8                   (A) performance goals and ongoing per-  
9                   formance evaluation;

10                   (B) plans for resource protection, enhance-  
11                   ment and interpretation; and

12                   (C) specific commitments for implementa-  
13                   tion that have been made by the local coordi-  
14                   nating entity or any government, organization,  
15                   business or individual;

16           (4) include an interpretative plan for the Herit-  
17           age Area;

18           (5) take into consideration existing State, coun-  
19           ty, and local plans;

20           (6) specify the existing and potential sources of  
21           funding to protect, manage, and develop the Herit-  
22           age Area;

23           (7) include an inventory of the natural, historic,  
24           cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational re-  
25           sources of the Heritage Area relating to the themes

1 of the Heritage Area that should be preserved, re-  
2 stored, managed, developed, or maintained; and

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

9 (c) APPROVAL AND DISAPPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT  
10 PLAN.—

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

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

19 (A) the local coordinating entity is rep-  
20 resentative of the diverse interests of the Herit-  
21 age Area, including governments, natural and  
22 historic resource protection organizations, edu-  
23 cational institutions, businesses, and rec-  
24 reational organizations;



1 (B) the local coordinating entity has pro-  
2 vided adequate opportunities (including public  
3 meetings) for public and governmental involve-  
4 ment in the preparation of the management  
5 plan;

6 (C) the resource protection and interpreta-  
7 tion strategies contained in the management  
8 plan, if implemented, would adequately protect  
9 the natural, historic, and cultural resources of  
10 the Heritage Area; and

11 (D) the management plan is supported by  
12 the appropriate State and local officials, the co-  
13 operation of which is needed to ensure the ef-  
14 fective implementation of the State and local  
15 aspects of the management plan.

16 (3) DISAPPROVAL AND REVISIONS.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary dis-  
18 approves a proposed management plan, the Sec-  
19 retary shall—

20 (i) advise the local coordinating entity,  
21 in writing, of the reasons for the dis-  
22 approval; and

23 (ii) make recommendations for revi-  
24 sion of the proposed management plan.

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

6           (d) APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS.—The Secretary  
7           shall review and approve or disapprove substantial amend-  
8           ments to the management plan in accordance with sub-  
9           section (c).

10 **SEC. 6. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

11           (a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act affects the au-  
12           thority of a Federal agency to provide technical or finan-  
13           cial assistance under any other law.

14           (b) CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.—The head  
15           of any Federal agency planning to conduct activities that  
16           may have an impact on the Heritage Area is encouraged  
17           to consult and coordinate the activities with the Secretary  
18           and the local coordinating entity to the extent practicable.

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

21                   (1) modifies, alters, or amends any law or regu-  
22           lation authorizing a Federal agency to manage Fed-  
23           eral land under the jurisdiction of the Federal agen-  
24           cy;



1 (4) authorizes or implies the reservation or ap-  
2 propriation of water or water rights;

3 (5) affects the licensing or relicensing of facili-  
4 ties by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
5 within the proposed Heritage Area or upstream or  
6 downstream from the proposed Heritage Area on the  
7 Susquehanna River, including FERC Project No.  
8 405–104;

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

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

16 **SEC. 8. EVALUATION; REPORT.**

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

19 (1) conduct an evaluation of the accomplish-  
20 ments of the Heritage Area; and

21 (2) prepare a report in accordance with sub-  
22 section (c).

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

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

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

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

8           (2) analyze the Federal, State, local, and pri-  
9 vate investments in the Heritage Area to determine  
10 the leverage and impact of the investments; and

11           (3) review the management structure, partner-  
12 ship relationships, and funding of the Heritage Area  
13 for purposes of identifying the critical components  
14 for sustainability of the Heritage Area.

15 (c) REPORT.—

16           (1) IN GENERAL.—Based on the evaluation con-  
17 ducted under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall  
18 prepare a report that includes recommendations for  
19 the future role of the National Park Service, if any,  
20 with respect to the Heritage Area.

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

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

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

3 **SEC. 9. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**

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

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