

Boucher
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Brown (FL)
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Engel
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Ewing
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Frank (MA)
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Jackson-Lee
(TX)
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Johnson (CT)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
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Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Klecza
Knollenberg
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Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
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Maloney (NY)
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Markey
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Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McNulty

Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
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Millender-
McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
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Mink
Moakley
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Neal
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
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Olver
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Owens
Oxley
Packard
Pallone
Pascrell
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Payne
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Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
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Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
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Reynolds
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
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Rogers
Rohrabacher
Rothman
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salmon
Sanchez
Sandlin
Sawyer
Saxton
Scarborough
Schakowsky
Scott
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
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Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shows
Shuster
Simpson
Sisisky
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)

Smith (WA)
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Spence
Spratt
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Stearns
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Sununu
Sweeney
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Taylor (MS)
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Thompson (CA)
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Toomey
Towns
Traficant
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Velazquez
Visclosky
Vitter
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Weldon (FL)
Weller
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Weygand
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wise
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (FL)

NAYS—17

Conyers
DeFazio
Duncan
Ehlers
Hostettler
McKinney

Miller, George
Mollohan
Paul
Rahall
Royce
Sanders

Sanford
Schaffer
Sensenbrenner
Stark
Waters

NOT VOTING—20

Callahan
Campbell
Cardin
Clay
Cunningham
Dooley
Hastings (FL)

Kasich
Klink
Lazio
Martinez
McCollum
McIntosh
Metcaif

Napolitano
Ros-Lehtinen
Vento
Waxman
Weldon (PA)
Young (AK)

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Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. DUNCAN and Ms. WATERS changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. WYNN, KUCINICH, WISE, ROHRABACHER, and Ms. LEE and Ms. WOOLSEY changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 485, Defense and Security Assistance Act Conference Report, H.R. 4919, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

CORRECTING ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 4919, DEFENSE AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I offer a concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 405) to correct the enrollment of H.R. 4919, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 405

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That the Clerk of the House of Representatives, in the enrollment of the bill (H.R. 4919) to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provi-

sions under those Acts, to authorize the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign countries, and for other purposes, shall make the following corrections:

(1) On page 34, line 1, insert "on a grant basis" after "available".

(2) On page 34, line 11, strike "paragraph (1)" and insert "subsection (b)(1) and paragraph (1) of this subsection".

(3) On page 36, line 19, insert "on a grant basis" after "available".

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LACKAWANNA VALLEY HERITAGE AREA ACT OF 2000

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 583 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 583

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 940) to designate the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area, and for other purposes, with Senate amendments thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a single motion offered by the chairman of the Committee on Resources or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendments. The Senate amendments and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Resources. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to final adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of the resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 583 is a rule waiving all points of order against a motion to concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 940, the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Act of 1999. The rule provides 1 hour of debate on the motion to be equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Resources.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 940, introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) would establish the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area in the State of Pennsylvania. The proposed area would cover a four-county region in the northeastern part of the

State, which is a nationally significant historical area.

The bill establishes an authority which would prepare a management plan for the area, which will be submitted to the Secretary of the Interior for approval within 3 years of enactment of this legislation. The plan shall include recommendations for actions to be undertaken by units of government and private organizations in order to protect and interpret the historical, natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the area.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 940 authorizes the appropriation of not more than \$1 million for any fiscal year and not more than \$10 million in total for purposes set forth in this act.

Finally, Federal funding may not exceed 50 percent of the cost of any assistance authorized in this act, and the authority may not use Federal funds received under the legislation to acquire real property or interest in real property.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 940 passed the House on September 19, 1999, and was passed with an amendment in the nature of a substitute by the Senate on September 18, 2000. The amendment merely makes several technical and clarifying changes and conforms to the management authorities for the heritage area to those approved for other heritage areas.

Mr. Speaker, this measure is straightforward and noncontroversial; and, accordingly, I urge support for both the rule and H.R. 940.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution as well as the underlying bill. The measure would establish the Lackawanna Valley Heritage Area in the State of Pennsylvania. The proposed areas would cover a four-county region in northeastern Pennsylvania, including Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wayne, and Susquehanna Counties.

Also included in H.R. 940 is the designation of the Schuylkill River Valley. This river valley developed a charcoal iron industry that made Pennsylvania the center of the iron industry within the American colonies.

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This measure will go a long way toward repairing the environmental damage to the river and its surroundings caused by the largely unregulated industrial activity. H.R. 940 authorizes the appropriation of up to \$1 million for any fiscal year, not exceeding \$10 million, for carrying out this act.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD), the author of this bill.

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, I thank the leadership for the prompt movement of this bill, and I thank as well the chairman of the Committee on Rules, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) for providing us with a rule which I rise in strong support of.

This bill, to provide a Lackawanna heritage area for four counties in northeastern Pennsylvania, has been a long time in the process. That area fueled the industrial revolution with its coal mines and its steel, and it had the seeds of the modern labor movements in the coal mines. This is a beautiful historical area which alternates between the ravages of two centuries of anthracite mining and the beautiful scenic Lackawanna River Valley. This is a historical and cultural area that deems preserving.

The designation of the Lackawanna and Schuylkill River Valleys as national heritage areas will enable all Americans for years to come to witness and learn the story of anthracite mining, the labor movement, and the industrialization of our great Nation. I urge my colleagues to support this rule.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 583, I call up from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 940) to designate the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendments thereto, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

MOTION OFFERED BY MR. SHERWOOD

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the motion.

The text of the motion is as follows:

Mr. SHERWOOD moves to concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 940, as follows:

Senate amendments:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

TITLE I—LACKAWANNA VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

SECTION 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area Act of 2000".

SEC. 102. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the industrial and cultural heritage of northeastern Pennsylvania, including Lacka-

wanna County, Luzerne County, Wayne County, and Susquehanna County, related directly to anthracite and anthracite-related industries, is nationally significant;

(2) the industries referred to in paragraph (1) include anthracite mining, ironmaking, textiles, and rail transportation;

(3) the industrial and cultural heritage of the anthracite and anthracite-related industries in the region described in paragraph (1) includes the social history and living cultural traditions of the people of the region;

(4) the labor movement of the region played a significant role in the development of the Nation, including—

(A) the formation of many major unions such as the United Mine Workers of America; and

(B) crucial struggles to improve wages and working conditions, such as the 1900 and 1902 anthracite strikes;

(5)(A) the Secretary of the Interior is responsible for protecting the historical and cultural resources of the United States; and

(B) there are significant examples of those resources within the region described in paragraph (1) that merit the involvement of the Federal Government to develop, in cooperation with the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and local and governmental entities, programs and projects to conserve, protect, and interpret this heritage adequately for future generations, while providing opportunities for education and revitalization; and

(6) the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority would be an appropriate management entity for a Heritage Area established in the region described in paragraph (1).

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area are—

(1) to foster a close working relationship among all levels of government, the private sector, and the local communities in the anthracite coal region of northeastern Pennsylvania and enable the communities to conserve their heritage while continuing to pursue economic opportunities; and

(2) to conserve, interpret, and develop the historical, cultural, natural, and recreational resources related to the industrial and cultural heritage of the 4-county region described in subsection (a)(1).

SEC. 103. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) HERITAGE AREA.—The term "Heritage Area" means the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area established by section 4.

(2) MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—The term "management entity" means the management entity for the Heritage Area specified in section 4(c).

(3) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term "management plan" means the management plan for the Heritage Area developed under section 6(b).

(4) PARTNER.—The term "partner" means—

(A) a Federal, State, or local governmental entity; and

(B) an organization, private industry, or individual involved in promoting the conservation and preservation of the cultural and natural resources of the Heritage Area.

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

SEC. 104. LACKAWANNA VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area.

(b) BOUNDARIES.—The Heritage Area shall be comprised of all or parts of Lackawanna County, Luzerne County, Wayne County, and Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, determined in accordance with the compact under section 5.

(c) MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—The management entity for the Heritage Area shall be the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority.

SEC. 105. COMPACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this title, the Secretary shall enter into a compact with the management entity.

(b) **CONTENTS OF COMPACT.**—The compact shall include information relating to the objectives and management of the area, including—

- (1) a delineation of the boundaries of the Heritage Area; and
- (2) a discussion of the goals and objectives of the Heritage Area, including an explanation of the proposed approach to conservation and interpretation and a general outline of the protection measures committed to by the partners.

SEC. 106. AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES OF THE MANAGEMENT ENTITY.

(a) **AUTHORITIES OF MANAGEMENT ENTITY.**—The management entity may, for the purposes of preparing and implementing the management plan, use funds made available under this title to hire and compensate staff.

(b) **MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The management entity shall develop a management plan for the Heritage Area that presents comprehensive recommendations for the conservation, funding, management, and development of the Heritage Area.

(2) **CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND ACTIONS.**—The management plan shall—
(A) take into consideration State, county, and local plans;

(B) involve residents, public agencies, and private organizations working in the Heritage Area; and

(C) include actions to be undertaken by units of government and private organizations to protect the resources of the Heritage Area.

(3) **SPECIFICATION OF FUNDING SOURCES.**—The management plan shall specify the existing and potential sources of funding available to protect, manage, and develop the Heritage Area.

(4) **OTHER REQUIRED ELEMENTS.**—The management plan shall include the following:

(A) An inventory of the resources contained in the Heritage Area, including a list of any property in the Heritage Area that is related to the purposes of the Heritage Area and that should be preserved, restored, managed, developed, or maintained because of its historical, cultural, natural, recreational, or scenic significance.

(B) A recommendation of policies for resource management that considers and details application of appropriate land and water management techniques, including the development of intergovernmental cooperative agreements to protect the historical, cultural, natural, and recreational resources of the Heritage Area in a manner that is consistent with the support of appropriate and compatible economic viability.

(C) A program for implementation of the management plan by the management entity, including—

- (i) plans for restoration and construction; and
- (ii) specific commitments of the partners for the first 5 years of operation.

(D) An analysis of ways in which local, State, and Federal programs may best be coordinated to promote the purposes of this Act.

(E) An interpretation plan for the Heritage Area.

(5) **SUBMISSION TO SECRETARY FOR APPROVAL.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than the last day of the 3-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the management entity shall submit the management plan to the Secretary for approval.

(B) **EFFECT OF FAILURE TO SUBMIT.**—If a management plan is not submitted to the Secretary by the day referred to in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall not, after that day, provide any grant or other assistance under this title with respect to the Heritage Area until a management plan for the Heritage Area is submitted to the Secretary.

(c) **DUTIES OF MANAGEMENT ENTITY.**—The management entity shall—

(1) give priority to implementing actions specified in the compact and management plan, including steps to assist units of government and nonprofit organizations in preserving the Heritage Area;

(2) assist units of government and nonprofit organizations in—

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

(B) developing recreational resources in the Heritage Area;

(C) increasing public awareness of and appreciation for the historical, natural, and architectural resources and sites in the Heritage Area; and

(D) restoring historic buildings that relate to the purposes of the Heritage Area;

(3) encourage economic viability in the Heritage Area consistent with the goals of the management plan;

(4) encourage local governments to adopt land use policies consistent with the management of the Heritage Area and the goals of the management plan;

(5) assist units of government and nonprofit organizations to ensure that clear, consistent, and environmentally appropriate signs identifying access points and sites of interest are placed throughout the Heritage Area;

(6) consider the interests of diverse governmental, business, and nonprofit groups within the Heritage Area;

(7) conduct public meetings not less often than quarterly concerning the implementation of the management plan;

(8) submit substantial amendments (including any increase of more than 20 percent in the cost estimates for implementation) to the management plan to the Secretary for the Secretary's approval; and

(9) for each year in which Federal funds have been received under this title—

(A) submit a report to the Secretary that specifies—

(i) the accomplishments of the management entity; and

(ii) the expenses and income of the management entity;

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

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

(d) **USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.**—

(1) **FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE UNDER THIS TITLE.**—The management entity shall not use Federal funds received under this title to acquire real property or any interest in real property.

(2) **FUNDS FROM OTHER SOURCES.**—Nothing in this title precludes the management entity from using Federal funds obtained through law other than this title for any purpose for which the funds are authorized to be used.

SEC. 107. DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.

(a) **TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**—

(1) **PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary may, at the request of the management entity, provide technical and financial assistance to the management entity to develop and implement the management plan.

(2) **PRIORITY IN ASSISTANCE.**—In assisting the management entity, the Secretary shall give priority to actions that assist in—

(A) conserving the significant historical, cultural, and natural resources that support the purpose of the Heritage Area; and

(B) providing educational, interpretive, and recreational opportunities consistent with the resources and associated values of the Heritage Area.

(b) **APPROVAL AND DISAPPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT PLANS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, shall approve or disapprove a management plan submitted under this title not later than 90 days after receipt of the management plan.

(2) **ACTION FOLLOWING DISAPPROVAL.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If the Secretary disapproves a management plan, the Secretary shall advise the management entity in writing of the reasons for the disapproval and shall make recommendations for revisions to the management plan.

(B) **DEADLINE FOR APPROVAL OF REVISION.**—The Secretary shall approve or disapprove a proposed revision within 90 days after the date on which the revision is submitted to the Secretary.

(c) **APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) **REVIEW.**—The Secretary shall review substantial amendments (as determined under section 6(c)(8)) to the management plan for the Heritage Area.

(2) **REQUIREMENT OF APPROVAL.**—Funds made available under this title shall not be expended to implement the amendments described in paragraph (1) until the Secretary approves the amendments.

SEC. 108. SUNSET PROVISION.

The Secretary shall not provide any grant or other assistance under this title after September 30, 2012.

SEC. 109. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title \$10,000,000, except that not more than \$1,000,000 may be appropriated to carry out this title for any fiscal year.

(b) **50-PERCENT MATCH.**—The Federal share of the cost of activities carried out using any assistance or grant under this title shall not exceed 50 percent.

TITLE II—SCHUYLKILL RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Schuylkill River Valley National Heritage Area Act".

SEC. 202. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

(1) the Schuylkill River Valley made a unique contribution to the cultural, political, and industrial development of the United States;

(2) the Schuylkill River is distinctive as the first spine of modern industrial development in Pennsylvania and one of the first in the United States;

(3) the Schuylkill River Valley played a significant role in the struggle for nationhood;

(4) the Schuylkill River Valley developed a prosperous and productive agricultural economy that survives today;

(5) the Schuylkill River Valley developed a charcoal iron industry that made Pennsylvania the center of the iron industry within the North American colonies;

(6) the Schuylkill River Valley developed into a significant anthracite mining region that continues to thrive today;

(7) the Schuylkill River Valley developed early transportation systems, including the Schuylkill Canal and the Reading Railroad;

(8) the Schuylkill River Valley developed a significant industrial base, including textile mills and iron works;

(9) there is a longstanding commitment to—

(A) repairing the environmental damage to the river and its surroundings caused by the largely unregulated industrial activity; and

(B) completing the Schuylkill River Trail along the 128-mile corridor of the Schuylkill Valley;

(10) there is a need to provide assistance for the preservation and promotion of the significance of the Schuylkill River as a system for transportation, agriculture, industry, commerce, and immigration; and

(11)(A) the Department of the Interior is responsible for protecting the Nation's cultural and historical resources; and

(B) there are significant examples of such resources within the Schuylkill River Valley to merit the involvement of the Federal Government in the development of programs and

projects, in cooperation with the Schuylkill River Greenway Association, the State of Pennsylvania, and other local and governmental bodies, to adequately conserve, protect, and interpret this heritage for future generations, while providing opportunities for education and revitalization.

(b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of this title are—

(1) to foster a close working relationship with all levels of government, the private sector, and the local communities in the Schuylkill River Valley of southeastern Pennsylvania and enable the communities to conserve their heritage while continuing to pursue economic opportunities; and

(2) to conserve, interpret, and develop the historical, cultural, natural, and recreational resources related to the industrial and cultural heritage of the Schuylkill River Valley of southeastern Pennsylvania.

SEC. 203. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.**—The term “cooperative agreement” means the cooperative agreement entered into under section 204(d).

(2) **HERITAGE AREA.**—The term “Heritage Area” means the Schuylkill River Valley National Heritage Area established by section 204.

(3) **MANAGEMENT ENTITY.**—The term “management entity” means the management entity of the Heritage Area appointed under section 204(c).

(4) **MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—The term “management plan” means the management plan for the Heritage Area developed under section 205.

(5) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) **STATE.**—The term “State” means the State of Pennsylvania.

SEC. 204. ESTABLISHMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—For the purpose of preserving and interpreting for the educational and inspirational benefit of present and future generations certain land and structures with unique and significant historical and cultural value associated with the early development of the Schuylkill River Valley, there is established the Schuylkill River Valley National Heritage Area.

(b) **BOUNDARIES.**—The Heritage Area shall be comprised of the Schuylkill River watershed within the counties of Schuylkill, Berks, Montgomery, Chester, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as delineated by the Secretary.

(c) **MANAGEMENT ENTITY.**—The management entity for the Heritage Area shall be the Schuylkill River Greenway Association.

(d) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—To carry out this title, the Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the management entity.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The cooperative agreement shall include information relating to the objectives and management of the Heritage Area, including—

(A) a description of the goals and objectives of the Heritage Area, including a description of the approach to conservation and interpretation of the Heritage Area;

(B) an identification and description of the management entity that will administer the Heritage Area; and

(C) a description of the role of the State.

SEC. 205. MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this title, the management entity shall submit to the Secretary for approval a management plan for the Heritage Area that presents comprehensive recommendations for the conservation, funding, management, and development of the Heritage Area.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The management plan shall—

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

(2) involve residents, public agencies, and private organizations working in the Heritage Area;

(3) specify, as of the date of the plan, existing and potential sources of funding to protect, manage, and develop the Heritage Area; and

(4) include—

(A) actions to be undertaken by units of government and private organizations to protect the resources of the Heritage Area;

(B) an inventory of the resources contained in the Heritage Area, including a list of any property in the Heritage Area that is related to the themes of the Heritage Area and that should be preserved, restored, managed, developed, or maintained because of its natural, cultural, historical, recreational, or scenic significance;

(C) a recommendation of policies for resource management that considers and details application of appropriate land and water management techniques, including the development of inter-governmental cooperative agreements to protect the historical, cultural, recreational, and natural resources of the Heritage Area in a manner consistent with supporting appropriate and compatible economic viability;

(D) a program for implementation of the management plan by the management entity;

(E) an analysis of ways in which local, State, and Federal programs may best be coordinated to promote the purposes of this title; and

(F) an interpretation plan for the Heritage Area.

(c) **DISQUALIFICATION FROM FUNDING.**—If a management plan is not submitted to the Secretary on or before the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this title, the Heritage Area shall be ineligible to receive Federal funding under this title until the date on which the Secretary receives the management plan.

(d) **UPDATE OF PLAN.**—In lieu of developing an original management plan, the management entity may update and submit to the Secretary the Schuylkill Heritage Corridor Management Action Plan that was approved by the State in March, 1995, to meet the requirements of this section.

SEC. 206. AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES OF THE MANAGEMENT ENTITY.

(a) **AUTHORITIES OF THE MANAGEMENT ENTITY.**—For purposes of preparing and implementing the management plan, the management entity may—

(1) make grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements with, the State and political subdivisions of the State, private organizations, or any person; and

(2) hire and compensate staff.

(b) **DUTIES OF THE MANAGEMENT ENTITY.**—The management entity shall—

(1) develop and submit the management plan under section 205;

(2) give priority to implementing actions set forth in the cooperative agreement and the management plan, including taking steps to—

(A) assist units of government, regional planning organizations, and nonprofit organizations in—

(i) preserving the Heritage Area;

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

(iii) developing recreational resources in the Heritage Area;

(iv) increasing public awareness of and, appreciation for, the natural, historical, and architectural resources and sites in the Heritage Area;

(v) restoring historic buildings relating to the themes of the Heritage Area; and

(vi) ensuring that clear, consistent, and environmentally appropriate signs identifying access points and sites of interest are installed throughout the Heritage Area;

(B) encourage economic viability in the Heritage Area consistent with the goals of the management plan; and

(C) encourage local governments to adopt land use policies consistent with the management of the Heritage Area and the goals of the management plan;

(3) consider the interests of diverse governmental, business, and nonprofit groups within the Heritage Area;

(4) conduct public meetings at least quarterly regarding the implementation of the management plan;

(5) submit substantial changes (including any increase of more than 20 percent in the cost estimates for implementation) to the management plan to the Secretary for the approval of the Secretary; and

(6) for any fiscal year in which Federal funds are received under this title—

(A) submit to the Secretary a report describing—

(i) the accomplishments of the management entity;

(ii) the expenses and income of the management entity; and

(iii) each entity to which the management entity made any grant during the fiscal year;

(B) make available for audit all records pertaining to the expenditure of Federal funds and any matching funds, and require, for all agreements authorizing expenditure of Federal funds by organizations other than the management entity, that the receiving organizations make available for audit all records pertaining to the expenditure of such funds; and

(C) require, for all agreements authorizing expenditure of Federal funds by organizations other than the management entity, that the receiving organizations make available for audit all records pertaining to the expenditure of Federal funds.

(c) **USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The management entity shall not use Federal funds received under this title to acquire real property or an interest in real property.

(2) **OTHER SOURCES.**—Nothing in this title precludes the management entity from using Federal funds from other sources for their permitted purposes.

(d) **SPENDING FOR NON-FEDERALLY OWNED PROPERTY.**—The management entity may spend Federal funds directly on non-federally owned property to further the purposes of this title, especially in assisting units of government in appropriate treatment of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

SEC. 207. DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.

(a) **TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—At the request of the management entity, the Secretary may provide technical and financial assistance to the Heritage Area to develop and implement the management plan.

(2) **PRIORITIES.**—In assisting the management entity, the Secretary shall give priority to actions that assist in—

(A) conserving the significant natural, historical, and cultural resources that support the themes of the Heritage Area; and

(B) providing educational, interpretive, and recreational opportunities consistent with the resources and associated values of the Heritage Area.

(b) **APPROVAL AND DISAPPROVAL OF COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND MANAGEMENT PLANS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after receiving a cooperative agreement or management plan submitted under this title, the Secretary, in consultation with the Governor of the State, shall approve or disapprove the cooperative agreement or management plan.

(2) **MANAGEMENT PLAN CONTENTS.**—In reviewing the plan, the Secretary shall consider whether the composition of the management entity and the plan adequately reflect diverse interest of the region, including those of—

(A) local elected officials,

(B) the State,

(C) business and industry groups,

(D) organizations interested in the protection of natural and cultural resources, and

(E) other community organizations and individual stakeholders.

(3) **ACTION FOLLOWING DISAPPROVAL.**—

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

(i) advise the management entity in writing of the reasons for the disapproval; and

(ii) make recommendations for revisions in the cooperative agreement or plan.

(B) *TIME PERIOD FOR DISAPPROVAL.*—Not later than 90 days after the date on which a revision described under subparagraph (A)(ii) is submitted, the Secretary shall approve or disapprove the proposed revision.

(C) *APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall review and approve substantial amendments to the management plan.

(2) *FUNDING EXPENDITURE LIMITATION.*—Funds appropriated under this title may not be expended to implement any substantial amendment until the Secretary approves the amendment.

SEC. 208. CULTURE AND HERITAGE OF ANTHRACITE COAL REGION.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The management entities of heritage areas (other than the Heritage Area) in the anthracite coal region in the State shall cooperate in the management of the Heritage Area.

(b) *FUNDING.*—Management entities described in subsection (a) may use funds appropriated for management of the Heritage Area to carry out this section.

SEC. 209. SUNSET.

The Secretary may not make any grant or provide any assistance under this title after the date that is 15 years after the date of enactment of this title.

SEC. 210. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title not more than \$10,000,000, of which not more than \$1,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated for any one fiscal year.

(b) *FEDERAL SHARE.*—Federal funding provided under this title may not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of any project or activity funded under this title.

Amend the title so as to read: "An Act to designate the Lackawanna Valley and the Schuylkill River National Heritage Areas, and for other purposes."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). Pursuant to House Resolution 583, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD).

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I urge my colleagues to support this motion so that we can send this bill, which is important to the people of Pennsylvania and the Nation, to the President.

This bill, with the conforming amendments adopted by the Senate, establishes the two heritage areas in the State of Pennsylvania. The proposed Lackawanna Valley Heritage Area covers four counties in northeastern Pennsylvania, the counties of Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wayne and Susquehanna. The Schuylkill River Valley Heritage Area will be made up of the Schuylkill River watershed within the counties of Schuylkill, Berks, Montgomery, Chester, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Lackawanna Valley was the first heritage area designated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I am pleased to tell my colleagues that the

Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority has been providing outstanding oversight and support of the Valley's historical and cultural resources. The Authority's executive director, John Cosgrove, and his staff, Sandra Eggert, Margo Tomlinson, Alice Sokoloski, and Jack Carling, have worked hard and are proud that for every Federal dollar provided over the last decade, the Lackawanna Valley Heritage Authority has leveraged \$10 in State, local and private sector funds to finance preservation activities.

I commend them for their past successes and know that the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority will continue to foster these important relationships with all levels of government, the private sector, and local communities.

The Lackawanna Valley played a critical role in our Nation's history. Our coal mines powered the industrial revolution, and workers from the Lackawanna Valley played a significant role in the formation and development of the organized labor movement in the early part of the century.

My bill was reported to the Committee on Resources last year on August 3, 1999, with an amendment. It passed the House of Representatives on September 13, 1999 under suspension of the rules. The Senate passed the bill last Monday, September 18, with a further amendment which made some conforming and technical changes. We must concur in the Senate amendments as soon as possible so that the National Park Service, the Lackawanna Valley Heritage Authority, and the Schuylkill River Greenway Association can begin their important work.

The designation of the Lackawanna and Schuylkill River Valleys as a national heritage area will enable all Americans, for years to come, to witness and learn the story of anthracite mining, the labor movement, and the industrialization of America. I urge my colleagues to support this motion.

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

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 940, as amended, establishes the Lackawanna Valley and Schuylkill Valley Heritage Areas in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The bill originally passed the House by voice vote on September 13, 1999. The Senate passed the bill on Monday of this week and has returned the measure to the House with amendments. The Senate amendments make a number of technical, clarifying and conforming changes to the bill. These are noncontroversial changes which we support.

The Lackawanna Valley covers the four counties of Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wayne, and Susquehanna counties in northeastern Pennsylvania. The proposed heritage area would preserve and interpret the Valley's historic, cul-

tural, and natural resources, especially as they relate to anthracite coal. In addition, the bill provides for the designation of a Schuylkill River National Valley Heritage Area so that the preservation and interpretation of the resources of the anthracite coal region will also include the significant resources found in the Schuylkill River Valley.

The Schuylkill River Valley Heritage Area would include the districts of our colleagues, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFEL). These two Members have been strong advocates for the preservation and interpretation of the region's resources, and I want to commend them for their efforts in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 940, as amended, is a good heritage preservation proposal, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill with the Senate amendments so that we can complete action on this measure and send the bill to the President for his signature.

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

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON).

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I want to compliment my colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD), for his work on this legislation that was introduced, as was mentioned, in March of 1999. It has been over a year and a half that he has been working on this important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, by designating the Lackawanna Valley of Pennsylvania as a national heritage area, this important legislation would ensure the conservation of its significant historical and cultural resources. The Lackawanna Valley was the first heritage area site, as has been mentioned, designated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and is a nationally significant historic area, as documented in the U.S. Department of Interior's Register of Historic Places.

The Valley represents the development of anthracite coal, one of North America's greatest natural resources. From early in the 19th century, Pennsylvania's coal provided an extraordinary source of energy which fueled America's economic growth for over 100 years.

At the center of the world's most productive anthracite fields, the Lackawanna Valley witnessed the inception, spectacular growth, and eventual deterioration of an industry which led the United States to unparalleled prosperity. The Valley's current mix of ethnicity, its combination of dense urban areas and isolated settlements, and the desolate remains of coal mines surrounded by beautiful countryside are a microcosm of our legacy from the industrial revolution.

As these contrasts illustrate, the industrial era was not without both

human and environmental costs. Thousands of immigrants worked in the deep mines under horrible conditions. Death and injury were commonplace. With no survivor benefits or disability compensation to withstand these calamities, anthracite miners created the Nation's first labor unions and they fought for the implementation of child labor laws, workplace safety, pension security, and fair labor standards.

The new Americans who populated the Lackawanna Valley established strong communities, where ethnic ties were reinforced by church and fraternal societies that created a sense of security noticeably absent in the mines. The Valley's remaining ethnic neighborhoods are a testament to a pattern of urban growth that was once common in U.S. cities but is now disappearing.

The landscape of the Valley conveys the story of the industrial revolution most clearly. Miles of tracks and hundreds of industrial sites and abandoned mines are daily reminders of the importance of the region to industry. Heritage sites like Pennsylvania's Anthracite Heritage Museum, the Scranton Iron Furnace Historic Site, the Lackawanna Valley County Coal Mine, and the Steam Town National Historic Site help to commemorate this struggle. These sites provide the framework for historic preservation which will be cemented by this proposed legislation.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, this is not just historical preservation that is written down in a book, like this, talking about the Lackawanna Valley, this is historic preservation that future generations can drive through, walk through, can touch and feel. This is true historic preservation for future generations.

Again, I compliment my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) for his outstanding work on this legislation and his dedication to making sure this becomes law this year.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN), who has been a strong advocate of the preservation and interpretation of this region's resources, and we appreciate his assistance in letting the Committee on Resources know the importance of this legislation.

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation, and I would like to thank the chairmen and ranking members of the full committee and the subcommittee for their help on this legislation as well as my friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD), who has been very gracious in including the Schuylkill River Heritage Corridor along with his Lackawanna Heritage Corridor. I appreciate his help.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will give the Department of the Interior the

opportunity to highlight the proud history of the Schuylkill River Heritage Corridor from the anthracite coal fields to Philadelphia, a proud history that includes anthracite coal, the fuel that really allowed us to have the industrial revolution in this country. It certainly fueled that and it gave us the resources to win World War I and World War II.

Also, this area in the Schuylkill River Heritage Corridor includes a great history of organized labor. The Working Man's Benevolent Association was first formed in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, and I am proud to say that my great grandfather was elected the first president of that organization. That was the forerunner to the United Mine Workers of America. That organization did so much, as was mentioned by the previous speaker, for worker safety, for child labor laws, an 8-hour day, and trying to get a 40-hour work. This is certainly something that will be highlighted by the Schuylkill River Greenway Association.

Along with that we will go to Schuylkill Canal, which gave us the opportunity to get anthracite coal and agriculture products to market in Philadelphia.

The Reading Railroad also will be highlighted by the Schuylkill River Greenway Association as contributing so much to the development of the United States, particularly to Pennsylvania.

We also have such a proud agricultural history in Schuylkill and Berks County, in Montgomery and Chester, and we are going to have the opportunity to talk so much about those achievements, along with the great history of iron ore and textiles.

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I can remember when I was a kid how many women worked in the factories. If you go back 30 or 40 years before that, the history of textiles in this country certainly was highlighted along the Schuylkill River.

I think this legislation will be a great opportunity for the Department of the Interior to highlight a proud history. I would like to thank again the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his assistance and the chairman and ranking member of the committee and the subcommittee.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFEL). I first would like to just say that the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFEL) has worked very diligently with the House Committee on Resources to get us to understand the importance of this legislation. He has been a very strong advocate for the preservation and interpretation of this region's resources. We very much appreciate his hard work on this bill.

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New Mex-

ico (Mr. UDALL) for his kind remarks and his leadership. I also want to thank the chairman and ranking member of the committee that brought this forward and particularly thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD), who went out of his way to make sure the Schuylkill River was included in this legislation that originally was designed to help the Lackawanna River. As the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN) said, we are both grateful to be part of this because it is such an important improvement to our home areas.

I rise in strong support of this bill because it will give us an opportunity to develop the Schuylkill River in Montgomery County as a real asset to our community. Schuylkill in Dutch means "hidden river." It was named by the Dutch that discovered the Delaware and the confluence of the Delaware with the Schuylkill where Philadelphia now is. They almost missed the mouth of it so they called it the hidden river, the Schuylkill. Unfortunately in modern times, it remains a hidden river, at least in Montgomery County. My county has 700,000 residents, lots of people, lots of industry, lots of activity; but we do not make good use of the riverfront. This legislation will allow us to develop the Schuylkill as an asset in our community. I do not mean develop in the sense of paving over or bulldozing things. What I mean is developing it as a recreational and open space asset, as a community asset, as well as a retail and residential asset.

Rivers in our communities, particularly our urban communities and suburban communities, can restore the soul of a community. People like the water. People like to be around the water. They like to shop along the water, they like to live on the water, they like to play and walk along the water. In Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, we have not been able due to a lot of reasons to properly use the Schuylkill. This legislation will encourage the planning at the local and State level and provide some of the funding to pull together the planning already going on by such groups as the Schuylkill River Greenway Association, who will be the managing group under this legislation to make sure that we have a broad vision that can use the riverfront for riverfront walkways, for parks, for recreational opportunities, as well as the kind of retail and residential efforts in communities that people truly desire.

I am delighted that this legislation is moving. I compliment again the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) for his leadership. I urge all of my colleagues to vote yes.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is a great example of bipartisanship, and it is the way that we should work with each other. We have two freshmen Members here, the gentleman from Pennsylvania

(Mr. HOEFFEL) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD), who have worked diligently on this bill. We also have the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN) who has participated and been a part of this. I would just say that this is a good example of us working together.

I congratulate all of the parties, including the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), for I know of his very hard work on this bill.

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

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank my colleagues from Pennsylvania for their cooperation on this bill. This is a wonderful thing to have a Lackawanna heritage area and a Schuylkill heritage area that both work to preserve what we have in Pennsylvania, a very unique heritage that was anthracite mining, early manufacturing, and the start of the industrial revolution, the start of the American labor movement. This will be a true preservation and an ability to continue the cleanup of those rivers so that they are treasures and they can be used as they were in colonial times, and there is great progress to be made in improving the environment. This is a cooperative effort to improve our environment and provide an interpretation of our history. This is a worthwhile project. I want to thank everyone that was involved in it. I ask for its passage.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 940 with the Senate amendments.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 940, as amended, establishes two new heritage areas, the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area and the Schuylkill River National Heritage Area, both in the State of Pennsylvania. Major credit for this legislation must go to Congressman DON SHERWOOD from Pennsylvania who has worked very hard in the creation of these Heritage Areas. In fact, this bill has been a long time coming, but Mr. SHERWOOD never gave up in his effort to pass this legislation.

The proposed Heritage Areas, because of their current mix of ethnicity, combination of dense urban areas with isolated settlements, and their coal mines, represent a microcosm of our legacy from the industrial revolution. These areas played significant roles in the formation and development of the organized union movement, such as the United Mine Workers, in the early part of this century.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 940 authorizes two experienced private entities who will be responsible for the development and implementation of the management plans for the respective heritage areas. These management plans will include recommendations to be undertaken by local and state units of government along with private organizations to protect and interpret the historical, natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the areas. Of note, the management entities may not use Federal funds received under this act to acquire real property or interest in real property. This bill is supported by the administration and, importantly, the local communities and governments within the new heritage areas. This bill will focus

well-deserved national attention to these areas of Pennsylvania and I urge my colleagues for their support on H.R. 940 with the Senate amendments.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 583, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD).

The motion was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL ACT OF 2000

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 585 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 585

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5109) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the personnel system of the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The amendment recommended by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill, as amended, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs; (2) the further amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, if offered by Representative Stump of Arizona, Representative Evans of Illinois, or a designee, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order or demand for division of the question, shall be considered as read, and shall be separately debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the ranking member of the Committee on Rules, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 585 is a modified closed rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5109, the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Personnel Act. This legislation is the culmination of work done by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs over the past year to determine what can be

done to improve the VA health care system. We all recognize the great sacrifices made by those who have bravely served their country in the armed services. Providing quality health care to these great Americans and their families is one of the most important ways that we can extend our gratitude. After numerous hearings, meetings and oversight conducted by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, this legislation was developed to address a range of VA health issues.

The House will have 1 hour to engage in general debate on the bill which will be equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Under the rule, the amendment recommended by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, now printed in the bill, shall be considered as adopted. All points of order against the bill, as amended, and against its consideration are waived. The rule makes in order one bipartisan amendment which is printed in the Committee on Rules report which shall be considered as read and not subject to amendment. All points of order against this amendment are waived.

Finally, the rule provides for the customary motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, we all have heard from our constituents about the problems that riddle the VA health system. I would venture to guess that all of us share a desire to improve this system to ensure that our Nation's veterans get the quality care that they so rightly deserve. Making sure our veterans are treated right starts with treating the personnel in the VA health system right. That is why much of H.R. 5109 focuses on the providers of health care in the VA system.

Under this legislation, pay for VA nurses will become more equitable and a guaranteed national comparability pay increase on par with that received by other Federal workers will improve morale among nurses which in turn will enhance recruitment and retention of these valued employees. In addition, these nurses, who often spend more time with individual patients and who are more intimately familiar with their care, will be given a greater role in policy and decision-making at the VA. Dentists will also see their pay rise, as will VA pharmacists under the provisions of this legislation.

In addition to ensuring that the personnel in the VA system receive adequate compensation, H.R. 5109 responds to the unique health care needs of veterans by requiring the VA to incorporate a military history into medical examinations. Treating the medical conditions that arise out of military service is at the foundation of the VA system. If such conditions are left undiagnosed and/or untreated, the long-term consequences can be very, very severe. This legislation requires that during a veteran's initial clinical examination, the VA inquire about and