

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

TOM SAWYER.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes or postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

**OIL REGION NATIONAL HERITAGE
AREA ACT**

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 695) to establish the Oil Region National Heritage Area, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 695

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; DEFINITIONS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Oil Region National Heritage Area Act”.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—For the purposes of this Act, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) **HERITAGE AREA.**—The term “Heritage Area” means the Oil Region National Heritage Area established in section 3(a).

(2) **MANAGEMENT ENTITY.**—The term “management entity” means the Oil Heritage Region, Inc., or its successor entity.

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

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The Congress finds the following:

(1) The Oil Region of Northwestern Pennsylvania, with numerous sites and districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and designated by the Governor of Pennsylvania as one of the State Heritage Park Areas, is a region with tremendous physical and natural resources and possesses a story of State, national, and international significance.

(2) The single event of Colonel Edwin Drake’s drilling of the world’s first successful oil well in 1859 has affected the industrial, natural, social, and political structures of the modern world.

(3) Six national historic districts are located within the State Heritage Park boundary, in Emlenton, Franklin, Oil City, and Titusville, as well as 17 separate National Register sites.

(4) The Allegheny River, which was designated as a component of the national wild and scenic rivers system in 1992 by Public Law 102-271, traverses the Oil Region and connects several of its major sites, as do some of the river’s tributaries such as Oil Creek, French Creek, and Sandy Creek.

(5) The unspoiled rural character of the Oil Region provides many natural and recreational resources, scenic vistas, and excellent water quality for people throughout the United States to enjoy.

(6) Remnants of the oil industry, visible on the landscape to this day, provide a direct link to the past for visitors, as do the historic valley settlements, riverbed settlements, plateau developments, farmlands, and industrial landscapes.

(7) The Oil Region also represents a cross section of American history associated with Native Americans, frontier settlements, the French and Indian War, African Americans and the Underground Railroad, and immigration of Swedish and Polish individuals, among others.

(8) Involvement by the Federal Government shall serve to enhance the efforts of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, local subdivisions of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, volunteer organizations, and private businesses, to promote the cultural, national, and recreational resources of the region in order to fulfill their full potential.

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this Act is to enhance a cooperative management framework to assist the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, its units of local government, and area citizens in conserving, enhancing, and interpreting the significant features of the lands, water, and structures of the Oil Region, in a manner consistent with compatible economic development for the benefit and inspiration of present and future generations in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States.

SEC. 3. OIL REGION NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is hereby established the Oil Region National Heritage Area.

(b) **BOUNDARIES.**—The boundaries of the Heritage Area shall include all of those lands depicted on a map entitled “Oil Region National Heritage Area”, numbered OIRE/20,000 and dated October, 2000. The map shall be on file in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service. The Secretary of the Interior shall publish in the Federal Register, as soon as practical after the date of the enactment of this Act, a detailed description and map of the boundaries established under this subsection.

(c) **MANAGEMENT ENTITY.**—The management entity for the Heritage Area shall be the Oil Heritage Region, Inc., the locally based private, nonprofit management corporation which shall oversee the development of a management plan in accordance with section 5(b).

SEC. 4. COMPACT.

To carry out the purposes of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into a compact with the management entity. The compact shall include information relating to the objectives and management of the area, including 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 Secretary and management entity.

**SEC. 5. AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES OF
MANAGEMENT
ENTITY.**

(a) **AUTHORITIES OF THE MANAGEMENT ENTITY.**—The management entity may use funds made available under this Act for purposes of preparing, updating, and implementing the management plan developed under subsection (b). Such purposes may include—

(1) making grants to, and entering into cooperative agreements with, States and their political subdivisions, private organizations, or any other person;

(2) hiring and compensating staff; and

(3) undertaking initiatives that advance the purposes of the Heritage Area.

(b) **MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—The management entity shall develop a management plan for the Heritage Area that—

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

(2) takes into consideration existing State, county, and local plans and involves residents, public agencies, and private organizations working in the Heritage Area;

(3) includes a description of actions that units of government and private organizations have agreed to take to protect the resources of the Heritage Area;

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

(5) includes 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, historic, recreational, or scenic significance;

(6) recommends policies for resource management which consider and detail application of appropriate land and water management techniques, including, but not limited to, the development of intergovernmental and interagency cooperative agreements to protect the Heritage Area’s historical, cultural, recreational, and natural resources in a manner consistent with supporting appropriate and compatible economic viability;

(7) describes a program for implementation of the management plan by the management entity, including plans for restoration and construction, and specific commitments for that implementation that have been made by the management entity and any other persons for the first 5 years of implementation;

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

(9) lists any revisions to the boundaries of the Heritage Area proposed by the management entity and requested by the affected local government; and

(10) includes an interpretation plan for the Heritage Area.

(c) **DEADLINE; TERMINATION OF FUNDING.**—

(1) **DEADLINE.**—The management entity shall submit the management plan to the Secretary within 2 years after the funds are made available for this Act.

(2) **TERMINATION OF FUNDING.**—If a management plan is not submitted to the Secretary in accordance with this subsection, the management entity shall not qualify for Federal assistance under this Act.

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

(1) give priority to implementing actions set forth in the compact and management plan;

(2) assist units of government, regional planning organizations, 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 natural, historical, and architectural resources and sites in the Heritage Area;

(D) the restoration of any historic building relating to the themes of the Heritage Area;

(E) ensuring that clear, consistent, and environmentally appropriate signs identifying access points and sites of interest are put in place throughout the Heritage Area; and

(F) carrying out other actions that the management entity determines to be advisable to fulfill the purposes of this Act;

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

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

(5) for any year in which Federal funds have been provided to implement the management plan under subsection (b)—

(A) conduct public meetings at least annually regarding the implementation of the management plan;

(B) submit an annual report to the Secretary setting forth accomplishments, expenses and income, and each person to which any grant was made by the management entity in the year for which the report is made; and