

**The Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands**

**Legislative Hearing: H.R. 2991, the Susquehanna National Heritage Area Act**

**4/11/18**

*Congressman Lloyd Smucker Testimony*

Chairman McClinton, Ranking Member Hanabusa, and Subcommittee members, thank you for allowing me to participate in today's hearing and speak in support of H.R. 2991, the Susquehanna National Heritage Area Act. As the lead sponsor of H.R. 2991, I'm glad to be here today to vouch for this important, bipartisan bill. The Susquehanna National Heritage Area Act is simple, it would make Lancaster and York counties – both in South Central Pennsylvania -- a National Heritage Area (NHA). 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.” According to the National Park Service, there are currently 49 National Heritage Areas in 32 states.

I'm very proud of the natural beauty we find in our Pennsylvania communities. We want to ensure we maintain that safe and clean environment into the future for residents and visitors. This National Heritage Area designation will attract more visitors, stimulate our local economy, and preserve natural resources and historical landmarks. I am pleased to have Mayor Lutz testifying today and other local leaders from the area in attendance. Without their hard work, tireless advocacy and community input, we would not be here right now. With that, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to enter 3 documents for the record. Included are a statement of national significance, an NHA summary and a long list of community supporters.

Again, thank you for allowing me to participate, and with that, I yield back Mr. Chairman.