

Committee on Natural Resources

Rob Bishop Chairman
Markup Memorandum

November 13, 2018

To: All Natural Resources Committee Members

From: Majority Committee Staff—Rebekah Rodriguez and Terry Camp
Subcommittee on Federal Lands (x67736)

Markup: **H.R. 6507 (Rep. Glenn Thompson)**, To amend the Oil Region National Heritage Area Act to reauthorize the Oil Region National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.
November 15, 2018, 9:30 am; 1324 Longworth House Office Building

H.R. 6507, “Oil Region National Heritage Area Reauthorization Act”

Summary of the Bill

H.R. 6507, introduced by Representative Glenn Thompson (R-PA-05), amends the Oil Region National Heritage Area Act to reauthorize the Oil Region National Heritage Area through Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 and update the name of the management entity for the Heritage Area.

Cosponsors

Rep. Lou Barletta [R-PA-11]
Rep. Matt Cartwright [D-PA-17]
Rep. Mike Kelly [R-PA-03]
Rep. Keith J. Rothfus [R-PA-12]
Rep Bill Shuster [R-PA-09]

Background

The Oil Region National Heritage Area (ORNHA) was designated in 2004 and encompasses 34 municipalities in 708 square miles in northwestern Pennsylvania, including all of Venango County.¹ The same acreage was designated as a Pennsylvania Heritage Area in 1994. The ORNHA includes oil artifacts, scenic communities and farmland, and industrial landscapes to teach visitors about the beginnings of the petroleum industry.

¹ Public Law 108-447.

The northwestern region of Pennsylvania is known as the birthplace of petroleum and as “The Valley That Changed the World,” because it was the location of the world’s first successful commercial oil well.² The developments in the region encompassed by the ORNHA led to major advancements in the transportation, communications, and energy industries and spurred population and economic growth in the area.

The ORNHA is managed by the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry and Tourism, a nonprofit corporation dedicated to increase the prosperity and population of the region.³ The corporation took over management when the original entity, Oil Heritage Inc., merged with other organizations to form the Alliance in 2005.⁴ Since the designation, public and private organizations have worked together to expand trail systems, restored historic downtowns, and completed other preservation and economic development in the ORNHA.⁵

Authorization for the expenditure of funds and for technical assistance from the Department of the Interior for the ORNHA will sunset in late 2019 or early 2020 (depending on the interpretation of when funds were first made available). H.R. 6507 would extend the authorization to FY 2026 and update the name of the management entity. Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA) has introduced companion legislation, S. 2604, in the Senate. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks held a legislative hearing on the bill on August 15, 2018.

Cost

A Congressional Budget Office cost estimate has not yet been completed for this bill.

Administration Position

The Administration’s position is currently unknown.

² National Park Service. “Oil Region National Heritage Area.” <https://www.nps.gov/places/oil-region-national-heritage-area.htm>

³ “Oil Region Alliance.” <http://oilheritage.org/oil-region-alliance/>

⁴ Oil Heritage Region Management Action Plan Update Executive Summary <http://oilheritage.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/OHRSummary.pdf>

⁵ “National Heritage Area Management Plan” <http://oilheritage.org/national-heritage-area-management-plan/>



Oil Region National Heritage Area Map
Source: Provided to the Subcommittee by the sponsor’s office

Effect on Current Law (Ramseyer)

Showing Current Law as Amended by H.R. 6507

[text to be added lighted in yellow; text to be deleted bracketed and highlighted in blue]

Public Law 108-447

TITLE VI--OIL REGION NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE; DEFINITIONS.

(a) Short Title.--This title may be cited as the ``Oil Region National Heritage Area Act".

(b) Definitions.--For the purposes of this title, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) Heritage area.--The term ``Heritage Area" means the Oil Region National Heritage Area established in section 603(a).

(2) Management entity.--The term ``management entity" means the [Oil Heritage Region, Inc.] Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry and Tourism or its successor entity.

(3) Secretary.--The term ``Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

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SEC. 603. 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. <<NOTE: Federal Register, publication.>> 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.] Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry and Tourism, the locally based private, nonprofit management corporation which shall oversee the development of a management plan in accordance with section 605(b).

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[SEC. 608. SUNSET]

The Secretary may not make any grant or provide any assistance under this title after the expiration of the 15-year period beginning on the date that funds are first made available for this title.]

SEC. 608. SUNSET.

The authority of the Secretary to grant or provide any assistance under this title shall terminate on September 30, 2026.

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