

**STATEMENT OF JANET SNYDER MATTHEWS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,  
CULTURAL RESOURCES, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS,  
FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 1885 TO ESTABLISH THE SANTA CRUZ  
VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES.**

**JULY 12, 2007**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to present the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 1885, a bill to establish the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area in the State of Arizona.

The Department recommends that the committee defer action on Santa Cruz Valley NHA and all other proposed heritage area designations until program legislation is enacted that establishes guidelines and a process for the designation of national heritage areas. Last year, the Administration sent to Congress a legislative proposal to establish guidelines and a process for designation. Bills were introduced in the 109th Congress (S. 243, H.R. 760 and H.R. 6287) that incorporated the majority of the provisions of the Administration's proposal, and S. 243 passed the Senate. During the 110th Congress, a similar heritage area program bill, S. 278, has been introduced, and we look forward to continuing to work with Congress on this very important issue.

With 37 national heritage areas designated across 27 states, and more heritage area proposals in the legislative pipeline, the Administration believes it is critical at this juncture for Congress to enact national heritage area program legislation. This legislation would provide a much-needed framework for evaluating proposed national heritage areas, offering guidelines for successful

planning and management, clarifying the roles and responsibilities of all parties, and standardizing timeframes and funding for designated areas. Program legislation also would clarify the expectation that heritage areas would work toward self-sufficiency by outlining the necessary steps, including appropriate planning, to achieve that shared goal.

H.R.1885 would establish the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area (NHA) in southern Arizona, managed by the Santa Cruz Valley Heritage Alliance Inc. The bill requires the Alliance to develop a management plan within 3 years of the date funds are available for approval by the Secretary. The National Park Service (NPS) and other federal agencies working within the Heritage Area are encouraged to consider the values of the area when planning and conducting activities. H.R. 1885 would prohibit the Heritage Area from using federal funds to acquire any real property and would authorize \$10 million to carry out the provisions of the bill, with no more than \$1 million authorized in any fiscal year. H.R. 1885 also includes a sunset clause, terminating federal assistance after 15 years.

The proposed Santa Cruz Valley NHA encompasses approximately 3,300 square miles of the upper and middle Santa Cruz River watershed and the upper Sonoran Desert. It includes two units of the National Park System, Tumacacori National Historical Park which preserves a Spanish Colonial Mission, and Saguaro National Park which protects a diverse and picturesque area of the Sonoran Desert. The Juan Baptista de Anza National Historic Trail also crosses the heritage area's boundary.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages approximately 64,000 acres of land within the proposed Heritage Area. The preponderance of that land (nearly 50,000 acres) lies within the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area established by Public Law 106-538. The remainder of the BLM-managed land consists of scattered parcels.

The U.S. Forest Service manages approximately 645,000 acres of land within the proposed NHA, comprising about one-third of the Coronado National Forest. Elevations there range from 3,000 feet to 9,500 feet in eight widely scattered mountain ranges or “sky islands” that rise dramatically from the desert floor, supporting plant communities as biologically diverse as those encountered on a trip from Mexico to Canada. All or portions of four wilderness areas managed by the Coronado National Forest occur in the proposed NHA.

Among the many multiple-uses existing on both BLM and Forest Service lands are recreation, grazing, energy and other rights-of-way, and hardrock mining.

The area is home to abundant wildlife, including, spadefoot toads, which live most of their lives underground, a variety of reptiles, 200 migratory bird species, 100 species of butterflies, coyotes, javalinas, deer, mountain lion, Mexican grey wolf, and an occasional jaguar visiting from Mexico.

The Santa Cruz Valley also boasts a rich cultural heritage. In addition to Tumacacori, the area includes other 18<sup>th</sup> century Spanish missions and Spanish cultural traditions, including language, ranching, and farming practices, which still play a prominent role in the area’s identity. The

Tohono O'odham Nation and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe also call the area home. Native Americans have inhabited the area since 11,000 B.C. and their cultural achievements are reflected in agricultural canals, pottery, and villages, the remains of which are still found in the valley.

The area also includes several National Historic Landmarks, including the Desert Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution, a distinguished center for the study of North American desert ecology; the Missile Site 8 National Historic Landmark, which is the last remaining example of a Titan II ICBM launch and control center associated with the Cold War; and San Xavier Del Bac, a fine example of Spanish Colonial mission church.

In addition to two units of the National Park System, other recreational opportunities found in the Santa Cruz Valley include four state parks, Coronado National Forest and BLM lands, and county parks. Of the 2.1 million acres within the proposed boundary, 71% is public, managed by various State, federal, and county entities.

The proposal to create a national heritage area enjoys strong grassroots support. The effort to achieve a heritage area was commenced in 2003 by the Center for Desert Archaeology which has completed a feasibility study that assesses the proposal against criteria for assessing national Heritage Area designations suggested by the National Park Service. That feasibility study determined that the area is appropriate for designation.

In addition to the cultural, natural and historical resources, the feasibility study considered the integrity of the resources, the involvement of local residents and land owners, businesses, non-

profits, and governments in developing a conceptual financial plan for the heritage area, the willingness of affected parties to work in partnership to develop the heritage area, whether the proposal is consistent with the area's economic activity, whether the proposed boundary enjoys public support, and a whether plan exists for a management entity to help coordinate development of the heritage area.

State and federal land management agencies with operations within Santa Cruz Valley have endorsed the NHA and stated their willingness to work collaboratively with the management entity. The effort has also drawn the support of Pima and Santa Cruz counties and all other local governments, including Tucson, Nogales, Marana, Oro Valley and Sahuarita, and was the subject of more than 60 meetings with local leaders, tribal members, and various stakeholder groups.

If the committee chooses to move forward with this bill, the Department would recommend that the bill be amended to include an additional requirement for an evaluation to be conducted by the Secretary, three years prior to the cessation of federal funding under this act. The evaluation would examine the accomplishments of the heritage area in meeting the goals of the management plan; analyze the leveraging and impact of investments to the heritage area; identify the critical components of the management structure and sustainability of the heritage area; and recommend what future role, if any, the National Park Service should have with respect to the heritage area.

In addition, we would like to work with the Subcommittee to develop amendments to ensure that the management planning process is coordinated with the affected federal agencies, and Tribal, State, and local governments, that revisions to the management plan be approved by the

Secretary, that provisions regarding disapproval of the management plan be added, and that provisions relating to management and use of federal lands and private property rights be clarified. In Section 7 of the bill there also appears to be duplicate language regarding the criteria for approval of the management plan which may need to be revised. These amendments would make H.R. 1885 consistent with other, similar, national heritage area establishment bills.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my prepared remarks. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF JANET SNYDER MATTHEWS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 105, TO DIRECT THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE SUITABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING THE NORTHERN NECK NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA IN VIRGINIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**JULY 12, 2007**

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Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before your committee to present the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 105, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Northern Neck National Heritage Area in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Department supports enactment of H.R. 105. However, we believe that any funding requested should be directed first toward completing previously authorized studies.

The Department continues to recommend that Congress enact program legislation for national heritage area studies and designations. The Administration's proposal for national heritage area program legislation was transmitted to Congress during the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress. Bills were introduced that incorporated the majority of the provisions of the Administration's proposal, and S. 243 passed the Senate. During the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, a similar heritage area program bill, S. 278, has been introduced, and we look forward to continuing to work with Congress on this very important issue.

With 37 national heritage areas designated across 27 states, and more heritage area legislative proposals in the pipeline, the Administration believes it is critical at this juncture for Congress to enact national heritage area program legislation. This legislation would provide a much-needed framework for evaluating proposed national heritage areas, offering guidelines for successful planning and management, clarifying the roles and responsibilities of all parties, and standardizing timeframes and funding for designated areas. Program legislation also would clarify the expectation that heritage areas would work toward self-sufficiency by outlining the necessary steps, including appropriate planning, to achieve that shared goal.

H.R. 105 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with appropriate State historic preservation officers, State historical societies, and other appropriate organizations, to conduct a study of the Northern Neck area and to evaluate if it meets the criteria for heritage area designation. The Secretary would be required to submit a report to Congress, no later than three years after funds are made available, on the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the study.

The study area for the Northern Neck National Heritage Area includes a part of Virginia between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers including the counties of Westmoreland, Northumberland, Richmond, King George, and Lancaster, as well as other adjacent or nearby areas that have similar heritage aspects. The Northern Neck of Virginia was described by its first European visitor, Captain John Smith as, “A place where heaven and earth never agreed better to frame man’s habitation.” George Washington summed it up more concisely as, “the Garden of Virginia.” The Northern Neck was not only the birthplace of our first President, but that of James



Madison, our fourth, and James Monroe, our fifth. The region includes the George Washington Birthplace National Monument, a unit of the National Park System.

The Northern Neck comprises an important collection of historic and natural resources. National historic landmarks include Menokin, the home of Frances Lightfoot Lee, member of the Continental Congress and signer of the Declaration of independence and the Articles of Confederation; Mount Airy, one of the few major 18<sup>th</sup> century Virginia plantation houses built of stone; Spence's Point, home of influential American writer John Roderigo Dos Passos; Historic Christ Church, built in 1735 by Robert "King" Carter, one of the wealthiest and most influential citizens in colonial America; and, Stratford Hall, the boyhood home of Richard Henry Lee and Francis Lightfoot Lee and the birthplace of Confederate Army General Robert E. Lee. Within the region, too, are the Caledon Natural Area, a national natural landmark; Westmoreland State Park, constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s; and Belle Isle State Park, an area of 733 acres including 7 miles of shoreline, tidal wetlands, agricultural fields and upland forests.

The Northern Neck has a rich history of agricultural and maritime endeavors. Productive soils and the history of agriculture in the region fostered agricultural traditions that continue into modern times. Kinsale, on the Yeocomico River, was an early ship building center and became a thriving steamboat landing during the late 19th century. It first experienced the difficulties of war in 1812, when the town was occupied and burned by the British. During the Civil War, Kinsale served as a base of operations for blockade runners and was bombarded by the Union Navy. The heritage of the Chesapeake Bay's watermen and their unique boats can be explored at the Port Kinsale Maritime Museum. At the Reedville Fishermen's Museum, the Northern Neck's important menhaden fishing industry and watermen's heritage is examined. The fishing industry

was an important economic enterprise and Reedville was said to be the richest town per capita in the United States in the early 1900s. The prosperity of that era can be seen in the fine Victorian mansions in Reedville's Main Street historic district.

Today, the Northern Neck of Virginia remains relatively unpopulated and retains many of the attributes that were known to its earlier settlers and our nation's first leaders. It is an area worthy of study for potential designation as a national heritage area.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the committee may have.

**STATEMENT OF JANET SNYDER MATTHEWS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 1083, TO AMEND THE ACT ESTABLISHING THE RIVERS OF STEEL NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA IN ORDER TO INCLUDE BUTLER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THAT HERITAGE AREA.**

**JULY 12, 2007**

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Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before your committee to present the Department of the Interior's views on H.R.1083, a bill to add Butler County to the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Department supports enactment of H.R. 1083.

Authorized in 1996 as part of Public Law 104-333, the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area celebrates the industrial and cultural heritage of the steel and steel-related industries in Southwestern Pennsylvania. This region was a center of activity during the Industrial Revolution with the steel industry playing a key role in establishing the preeminence of the United States in mass production industries. It also gave rise to a new chapter in the history of the labor movement, spawning such labor unions as the Congress of Industrial Organizations and the United Steel Workers of America, and bearing witness to the labor protests between management and labor such as the Battle of Homestead in 1892.

Butler County is located in western Pennsylvania on the north side of the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, comprising approximately 790 square miles with a population of almost

200,000. Butler County contains many historic resources related to the story of the steel industry in Southwestern Pennsylvania such as the American Rolling Mill Company (later known as Armco), a major steel company located in Butler City, and the American Bantam Car Company, who produced the first prototype for a military jeep. There is widespread support at the county and local levels for inclusion of Butler County into the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area.

The Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area has overseen more than 295 projects since its creation that fulfill the heritage area's mission to ensure that the region's remarkable industrial history and the living legacy of the people of Southwestern Pennsylvania endure for generations, and contribute to the region's economic revitalization. For example, the heritage area conducts and records oral history interviews of former steelworkers across the seven-county region. Over 40 recordings and their transcripts have been used in exhibits throughout the region and made available to the public through the Rivers of Steel archives. In partnership with Greene County, several non-profit groups, and residents, the W. A. Young & Sons Foundry & Machine Shop from the early 1900's is being restored to enable the public to tour the facility and allow blacksmith artisans to set-up studios.

Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area's participation and guidance in the restoration and rebirth of the former Carrie Furnaces of U.S. Steel's Homestead Works is transforming this former industrial site into active economic and recreational uses that will also help to preserve Allegheny County's proud history and profound impact on the steel industry and the world. Currently, the heritage area leads guided hard hat tours that highlight the Ore Yards and Cast House, the Hot Stoves, and the Pump House.

By expanding the heritage area to include Butler County, there will be increased opportunities to conserve, interpret and develop the historical and cultural resources related to the story of the rise of the steel industry and other related industries such as iron processing, and the manufacturing of steel-constructed rail cars and military vehicles in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the committee may have.

**STATEMENT OF JANET SNYDER MATTHEWS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,  
CULTURAL RESOURCES, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS,  
FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS, OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES CONCERNING H.R. 1145, TO ESTABLISH THE MUSCLE SHOALS  
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES.**

**JULY 12, 2007**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to present the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 1145, a bill to establish the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area in the State of Alabama.

The Department recommends that the committee defer action on H.R. 1145 and all other proposed heritage area designations until program legislation is enacted that establishes guidelines and a process for the designation of National Heritage Areas. Last year, the Administration sent to Congress a legislative proposal to establish guidelines and a process for designation. Bills were introduced in the 109th Congress (S. 243, H.R. 760 and H.R. 6287) that incorporated the majority of the provisions of the Administration's proposal, and S. 243 passed the Senate. During the 110th Congress, a similar heritage area program bill, S. 278, has been introduced, and we look forward to continuing to work with Congress on this very important issue.

The National Park Service (NPS) is in the process of conducting a study, authorized by Public Law 107-348, to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing a National Heritage Area (NHA) at Muscle Shoals. We expect to complete the study later this year, at which time we will

provide a recommendation on the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Muscle Shoals NHA. Until the study is completed, it would be premature to state a position on H.R. 1145.

With 37 NHA's designated across 27 states, and more heritage area legislative proposals in the pipeline, the Administration believes it is critical at this juncture for Congress to enact NHA program legislation. This legislation would provide a much-needed framework for evaluating proposed NHA's, offering guidelines for successful planning and management, clarifying the roles and responsibilities of all parties, and standardizing timeframes and funding for designated areas. Program legislation also would clarify the expectation that heritage areas work toward self-sufficiency by outlining the necessary steps, including appropriate planning, to achieve that shared goal.

H.R. 1145 would establish the Muscle Shoals NHA in the counties of Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, and Morgan in northwestern Alabama, would designate a local coordinating entity, and outline its duties. The bill would also authorize the development of a management plan within three years of enactment and authorize the use of federal funds to develop and implement that plan. If the plan is not submitted within three years of enactment of this Act, the NHA becomes ineligible for federal funding until a plan is submitted to the Secretary of the Interior. Additionally, the Secretary may, at the request of the management entity, provide technical assistance and enter into cooperative agreements with other public and private entities.

H.R. 1145 also contains safeguards to protect private property, including a prohibition on the use of federal funds to acquire real property. The bill proposes no new restrictions with regard to public use and access to private property.

Muscle Shoals is the name of a section of the Tennessee River in Alabama that historically presented major navigation hazards due to treacherous shoals and other natural obstructions. President Woodrow Wilson selected this part of the river for the construction of a dam for electric power and two nitrate production plants to strengthen national defense during World War I. The completion of the Wilson Dam in 1925 created a lake over the shoals, which solved the river's navigation problems. The facilities were transferred to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) upon its establishment in 1933. Consequently, Muscle Shoals is generally considered the birthplace of the TVA.

In addition to the Wilson Dam, the area has many notable historic and cultural resources, including the home of Helen Keller, Frank Lloyd Wright's Rosenbaum House, and a number of antebellum homes and other examples of early American architecture. The city of Florence hosts an annual music festival named for legendary blues musician W.C. Handy and the area has served as home to many other musicians who have made significant contributions to contemporary American music.

The Muscle Shoals region has many historically significant towns and cities. Among them are Mooresville in Limestone County, one of the state's earliest towns and Tuscumbia, an early frontier railroad town, which has become a noted heritage tourism destination. The area also



contains many museums, historic theaters, and art centers, including the Alabama Music Hall of Fame and the Jesse Owens Museum.

The Muscle Shoals region contains an array of American Indian resources, some of which are managed by the NPS. The Natchez Trace Parkway, Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail, and the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail run through the region. The University of Alabama has uncovered American Indian artifacts that indicate the area was among the earliest settled in the Southeast. An American Indian cultural center recently opened in Lawrence County and annual events featuring American Indian culture are held in at least three counties.

If the Committee chooses to move forward with this bill, the Department would recommend that the bill be amended to include an additional requirement for an evaluation to be conducted by the Secretary, three years prior to the cessation of federal funding under this act. The evaluation would examine the accomplishments of the heritage area in meeting the goals of the management plan; analyze the leveraging and impact of investments to the heritage area; identify the critical components of the management structure and sustainability of the heritage area; and recommend what future role, if any, the NPS should have with respect to the heritage area. We would be happy to work with the Subcommittee to develop this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my prepared remarks. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF JANET SNYDER MATTHEWS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 1297, A BILL TO ESTABLISH THE FREEDOM'S WAY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA IN THE STATES OF MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW HAMPSHIRE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**JULY 12, 2007**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to present the Department's views on H.R. 1297, a bill to establish the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the State of New Hampshire.

While the Department recognizes the appropriateness of designating the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area, we recommend that the committee defer action on H.R. 1297 and all other proposed heritage area designations until program legislation is enacted that establishes guidelines and a process for the designation of national heritage areas. Last year, the Administration sent to Congress a legislative proposal to establish such guidelines and a process for designation. Bills were introduced in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress (S. 243, H.R. 760 and H.R. 6287) that incorporated the majority of the provisions of the Administration's proposal, and S. 243 passed the Senate. During the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, a similar heritage area program bill, S. 278, has been introduced, and we look forward to continuing to work with Congress on this very important issue.

With 37 national heritage areas designated across 27 states, and more heritage area legislative proposals in the pipeline, the Administration believes it is critical at this juncture for Congress to enact national heritage area program legislation. This legislation would provide a much-needed framework for evaluating proposed national heritage areas, offering guidelines for successful planning and management, clarifying the roles and responsibilities of all parties, and standardizing timeframes and funding for designated areas. Program legislation also would clarify the expectation that heritage areas would work toward self-sufficiency by outlining the necessary steps, including appropriate planning, to achieve that shared goal.

The proposed Freedom's Way National Heritage Area includes 37 Massachusetts and 8 New Hampshire communities northwest of Boston. It includes the Minute Man National Historical Park, the Oxbow and Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuges, the Concord, Assabet and Sudbury Wild and Scenic Rivers, as well as National Historic Landmarks and Districts, and many sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

This is a region that substantively influenced our democratic forms of governance and the development of intellectual traditions that underpin the concepts of American freedom, democracy, conservation, social justice, and ethnic diversity. Historically prominent leaders in literature and intellectual thought found the region to be a source of inspiration including Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Louisa May Alcott. It was also the locale for expressions of religious freedom and social experimentation with the settlements of the Shakers, Millerites and Transcendentalists. Its natural and community resources are exceptional examples of the rural beauty of the New England landscape. The

events that occurred here during the American Revolution include the ride of Paul Revere and the engagements at Lexington and Concord, which are known to virtually every elementary school child in the nation.

The concept of a Freedom's Way National Heritage Area was defined in a feasibility study undertaken by the proposed management entity, the Freedom's Way Heritage Association, Inc. Priorities outlined in this study speak to linkages through education and preservation of the region's nationally distinctive natural and cultural resources through partnerships. The region has a strong partnership base among its many cultural institutions, businesses, non-profit organizations, local governments, and citizens. The governors of both states have endorsed the designation of a national heritage area.

The National Park Service reviewed the national heritage area feasibility study undertaken by the proposed management entity in July 1997. Since it did not fully address the interim national heritage area criteria, representatives of our Northeast Region conducted field reconnaissance visits in November 2000. Based on the findings of the reconnaissance team, the Freedom's Way Heritage Association, Inc. submitted an addendum in April 2001 to the 1997 Freedom's Way National Heritage Area Feasibility Study entitled "The Proposed Freedom's Way National Heritage Area and Compliance with the National Park Service Interim Criteria for National Heritage Area Designation." The National Park Service evaluated that addendum, as well as the original feasibility study, and found that the criteria were fully addressed and met.

Since 2001 when the study was amended, both Massachusetts and New Hampshire have enacted legislation establishing state heritage area commissions related to Freedom's Way. Although these state laws are quite similar to each other, and appear to be consistent with the general aims of H.R. 1297, they raise a number of issues. For example, each state is authorized to establish a Freedom's Way Heritage Area Commission, and among other duties "prepare and implement a unified historic preservation and interpretive plan for the area." If H.R. 1297 is enacted, the Freedom's Way Heritage Association, Inc., a nonprofit organization, would be the management entity, and would also be charged with developing a comprehensive management plan for the area. It is unclear how the heritage area would function with three separate management entities charged with similar duties. The Massachusetts law states that if a federal heritage area is designated by act of Congress, the governor may terminate the commission when a federal management entity is appointed, but the New Hampshire law includes no such provision.

It is our understanding that if the heritage area is federally designated, then both state commissions would not be established and the responsibility to prepare the management plan would be the duty of the Freedom's Way Heritage Association, Inc. as the management entity.

Mr. Chairman, while the proposed Freedom's Way National Heritage Area contains significant natural and cultural resources and meets the established criteria for congressional designation, we would again request that the committee defer action until national heritage area program legislation is enacted. However, if the committee chooses to move ahead with this bill, the Department would like to work with them to make some technical corrections to the bill. In addition, the Department would recommend that the bill be amended to include an additional

requirement for an evaluation to be conducted by the Secretary, three years prior to the cessation of federal funding under this act. The evaluation would examine the accomplishments of the heritage area in meeting the goals of the management plan; analyze the leveraging and impact of investments to the heritage area; identify the critical components of the management structure and sustainability of the heritage area; and recommend what future role, if any, the National Park Service should have with respect to the heritage area.

Mr. Chairman this completes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions that you or any of the members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF JANET SNYDER MATTHEWS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 1815, TO EXTEND THE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COASTAL HERITAGE TRAIL IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY.**

**JULY 12, 2007**

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Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before your committee to present the Department of the Interior's views on H.R.1815, to extend the authorization for the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route for an additional four years.

The Department supports enactment of this bill with two amendments.

The Act of October 20, 1988 authorized the Secretary to designate a vehicular tour route in coastal New Jersey and to prepare an inventory of sites along the route. An interpretive program was also mandated to provide for public appreciation, education, understanding and enjoyment of important fish and wildlife habitats, geologic and geographical landforms, cultural resources, and migration routes in coastal New Jersey. The Secretary was authorized to provide technical assistance, prepare and distribute information, and erect signs along the route. The trail links national wildlife refuges, national parklands, National Historic Landmarks, and National Register sites with important historic communities, state parks, natural areas, and other resources to tell the story of New Jersey's role in shaping U.S. history and in providing internationally important habitats for bird and other migrations.

The trail, an affiliated area of the National Park System, is a partnership among the National Park Service, the State of New Jersey, and many local government and private non-profit partners. Through interpretation of five themes (Maritime History, Coastal Habitats, Wildlife Migration, Relaxation & Inspiration, and Historic Settlements), the trail brings attention to important natural and cultural resources along coastal New Jersey. The trail demonstrates the potential of new public/private partnerships that allow the National Park Service to meet its core mission of natural and cultural resource preservation along with interpretation and public education in a cost-efficient manner through technical assistance while reducing operational responsibilities. No Federal funds are used for operations, maintenance, or repair of any road or related structure.

Extending the authorization of the trail would enable the National Park Service to complete implementation of the trail plan, as supported by the public and our partners. Without additional time and funding, the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route will be left incomplete. Implementation of the plan is also critical in building a base of sustainable partners and developing a strategy for the long-term management of the trail. Additionally, commitments to trail partners would go unfulfilled, and many additional natural and cultural resources would not receive the partnership assistance leveraged by the trail.

Public Law 109-338, the National Heritage Areas Act of 2006, reauthorized federal funding for the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route until September 30, 2007, while also requiring a strategic plan to be prepared by the Secretary three years after funds are made available. The current sunset date of September 30, 2007 does not provide adequate time to complete the preparation of the strategic plan. The strategic plan is an important tool to help the trail develop



a long-term management strategy that includes a variety of options for sustainability of the trail. In order to carry out this provision, the authorization for federal funding for the trail should be extended to September 30, 2011, to match the time period for the completion and transmittal of the strategic plan.

The Department recommends two amendments to the bill. First, we recommend that the long title of the bill be amended to use the generally accepted name of the trail, which is the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route. Second, the current authorization of appropriations for the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route is limited to the Secretary providing technical assistance and funds for the design and fabrication of interpretive materials, devices and signs. All federal funds under the enabling legislation require a non-federal, one-to-one match. We recommend that H.R. 1815 be amended to authorize the Secretary to use federal funding to complete the strategic plan since the current authorization does not allow for funds to be used for this purpose.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the committee may have.