

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2991

To establish the Susquehanna National Heritage Area in the State of Pennsylvania, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 21, 2017

Mr. SMUCKER (for himself, Mr. MEEHAN, and Mr. PERRY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To establish the Susquehanna National Heritage Area in the State of Pennsylvania, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Susquehanna National  
5       Heritage Area Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       In this Act:

8               (1) **HERITAGE AREA.**—The term “Heritage  
9       Area” means the Susquehanna National Heritage  
10       Area established by section 3(a).

1           (2) LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.—The term  
2           “local coordinating entity” means the local coordi-  
3           nating entity for the Heritage Area designated by  
4           section 4(a).

5           (3) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term “manage-  
6           ment plan” means the plan developed by the local  
7           coordinating entity under section 5(a).

8           (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
9           the Secretary of the Interior.

10          (5) STATE.—The term “State” means the State  
11          of Pennsylvania.

12 **SEC. 3. SUSQUEHANNA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.**

13          (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Sus-  
14          quehanna National Heritage Area in the State.

15          (b) BOUNDARIES.—The Heritage Area shall include  
16          Lancaster and York Counties, Pennsylvania.

17 **SEC. 4. DESIGNATION OF LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.**

18          (a) LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.—The Susque-  
19          hanna Heritage Corporation, a nonprofit organization es-  
20          tablished under the laws of the State, shall be the local  
21          coordinating entity for the Heritage Area.

22          (b) AUTHORITIES OF LOCAL COORDINATING ENTI-  
23          TY.—The local coordinating entity may, for purposes of  
24          preparing and implementing the management plan, use  
25          Federal funds made available under this Act—

1           (1) to prepare reports, studies, interpretive ex-  
2           hibits and programs, historic preservation projects,  
3           and other activities recommended in the manage-  
4           ment plan for the Heritage Area;

5           (2) to make grants to the State, political sub-  
6           divisions of the State, nonprofit organizations, and  
7           other persons;

8           (3) to enter into cooperative agreements with  
9           the State, political subdivisions of the State, non-  
10          profit organizations, and other organizations;

11          (4) to hire and compensate staff;

12          (5) to obtain funds or services from any source,  
13          including funds and services provided under any  
14          other Federal program or law; and

15          (6) to contract for goods and services.

16          (c) DUTIES OF LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.—To  
17          further the purposes of the Heritage Area, the local co-  
18          ordinating entity shall—

19                (1) prepare a management plan for the Herit-  
20                age Area in accordance with section 5;

21                (2) give priority to the implementation of ac-  
22                tions, goals, and strategies set forth in the manage-  
23                ment plan, including assisting units of government  
24                and other persons in—

1 (A) carrying out programs and projects  
2 that recognize and protect important resource  
3 values in the Heritage Area;

4 (B) encouraging economic viability in the  
5 Heritage Area in accordance with the goals of  
6 the management plan;

7 (C) establishing and maintaining interpre-  
8 tive exhibits in the Heritage Area;

9 (D) developing heritage-based recreational  
10 and educational opportunities for residents and  
11 visitors in the Heritage Area;

12 (E) increasing public awareness of and ap-  
13 preciation for the natural, historic, and cultural  
14 resources of the Heritage Area;

15 (F) restoring historic buildings that are—  
16 (i) located in the Heritage Area; and  
17 (ii) related to the themes of the Herit-  
18 age Area; and

19 (G) installing throughout the Heritage  
20 Area clear, consistent, and appropriate signs  
21 identifying public access points and sites of in-  
22 terest;

23 (3) consider the interests of diverse units of  
24 government, businesses, tourism officials, private  
25 property owners, and nonprofit groups within the

1 Heritage Area in developing and implementing the  
2 management plan;

3 (4) conduct public meetings at least semiannu-  
4 ally regarding the development and implementation  
5 of the management plan; and

6 (5) for any fiscal year for which Federal funds  
7 are received under this Act—

8 (A) submit to the Secretary an annual re-  
9 port that describes—

10 (i) the accomplishments of the local  
11 coordinating entity;

12 (ii) the expenses and income of the  
13 local coordinating entity; and

14 (iii) the entities to which the local co-  
15 ordinating entity made any grants;

16 (B) make available for audit all records re-  
17 lating to the expenditure of the Federal funds  
18 and any matching funds; and

19 (C) require, with respect to all agreements  
20 authorizing the expenditure of Federal funds by  
21 other organizations, that the receiving organiza-  
22 tions make available for audit all records relat-  
23 ing to the expenditure of the Federal funds.

24 (d) PROHIBITION ON ACQUISITION OF REAL PROP-  
25 erty.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The local coordinating entity  
2 shall not use Federal funds received under this Act  
3 to acquire real property or any interest in real prop-  
4 erty.

5           (2) OTHER SOURCES.—Nothing in this Act pre-  
6 cludes the local coordinating entity from using Fed-  
7 eral funds from other sources for authorized pur-  
8 poses, including the acquisition of real property or  
9 any interest in real property.

10 **SEC. 5. MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

11       (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the  
12 date on which funds are first made available to carry out  
13 this Act, the local coordinating entity shall prepare and  
14 submit to the Secretary a management plan for the Herit-  
15 age Area.

16       (b) CONTENTS.—The management plan for the Her-  
17 itage Area shall—

18           (1) include comprehensive policies, strategies,  
19 and recommendations for the conservation, funding,  
20 management, and development of the Heritage Area;

21           (2) take into consideration existing State, coun-  
22 ty, and local plans;

23           (3) specify the existing and potential sources of  
24 funding to protect, manage, and develop the Herit-  
25 age Area;

1           (4) include an inventory of the natural, historic,  
2           cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational re-  
3           sources of the Heritage Area relating to the themes  
4           of the Heritage Area that should be preserved, re-  
5           stored, managed, developed, or maintained; and

6           (5) include an analysis of, and recommenda-  
7           tions for, ways in which Federal, State, and local  
8           programs, may best be coordinated to further the  
9           purposes of this Act, including recommendations for  
10          the role of the National Park Service in the Heritage  
11          Area.

12          (c) DISQUALIFICATION FROM FUNDING.—If a pro-  
13          posed management plan is not submitted to the Secretary  
14          by the date that is 3 years after the date on which funds  
15          are first made available to carry out this Act, the local  
16          coordinating entity may not receive additional funding  
17          under this Act until the date on which the Secretary re-  
18          ceives the proposed management plan.

19          (d) APPROVAL AND DISAPPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT  
20          PLAN.—

21                 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
22                 after the date on which the local coordinating entity  
23                 submits the management plan to the Secretary, the  
24                 Secretary shall approve or disapprove the proposed  
25                 management plan.

1           (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining whether  
2           to approve or disapprove the management plan, the  
3           Secretary shall consider whether—

4                   (A) the local coordinating entity is rep-  
5                   resentative of the diverse interests of the Herit-  
6                   age Area, including governments, natural and  
7                   historic resource protection organizations, edu-  
8                   cational institutions, businesses, and rec-  
9                   reational organizations;

10                   (B) the local coordinating entity has pro-  
11                   vided adequate opportunities (including public  
12                   meetings) for public and governmental involve-  
13                   ment in the preparation of the management  
14                   plan;

15                   (C) the resource protection and interpreta-  
16                   tion strategies contained in the management  
17                   plan, if implemented, would adequately protect  
18                   the natural, historic, and cultural resources of  
19                   the Heritage Area; and

20                   (D) the management plan is supported by  
21                   the appropriate State and local officials, the co-  
22                   operation of which is needed to ensure the ef-  
23                   fective implementation of the State and local  
24                   aspects of the management plan.

25           (3) DISAPPROVAL AND REVISIONS.—

1           (A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary dis-  
2           approves a proposed management plan, the Sec-  
3           retary shall—

4                   (i) advise the local coordinating entity,  
5                   in writing, of the reasons for the dis-  
6                   approval; and

7                   (ii) make recommendations for revi-  
8                   sion of the proposed management plan.

9           (B) APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—The  
10           Secretary shall approve or disapprove a revised  
11           management plan not later than 180 days after  
12           the date on which the revised management plan  
13           is submitted.

14       (e) APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS.—

15           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall review  
16           and approve or disapprove substantial amendments  
17           to the management plan in accordance with sub-  
18           section (d).

19           (2) FUNDING.—Funds appropriated under this  
20           Act may not be expended to implement any changes  
21           made by an amendment to the management plan  
22           until the Secretary approves the amendment.

1 **SEC. 6. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act affects the au-  
3 thority of a Federal agency to provide technical or finan-  
4 cial assistance under any other law.

5 (b) CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.—The head  
6 of any Federal agency planning to conduct activities that  
7 may have an impact on the Heritage Area is encouraged  
8 to consult and coordinate the activities with the Secretary  
9 and the local coordinating entity to the extent practicable.

10 (c) OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Nothing in this  
11 Act—

12 (1) modifies, alters, or amends any law or regu-  
13 lation authorizing a Federal agency to manage Fed-  
14 eral land under the jurisdiction of the Federal agen-  
15 cy;

16 (2) limits the discretion of a Federal land man-  
17 ager to implement an approved land use plan within  
18 the boundaries of the Heritage Area; or

19 (3) modifies, alters, or amends any authorized  
20 use of Federal land under the jurisdiction of a Fed-  
21 eral agency.

22 **SEC. 7. PRIVATE PROPERTY AND REGULATORY PROTEC-**  
23 **TIONS.**

24 Nothing in this Act—

25 (1) abridges the rights of any property owner  
26 (whether public or private), including the right to re-

1       frain from participating in any plan, project, pro-  
2       gram, or activity conducted within the Heritage  
3       Area;

4               (2) requires any property owner to permit pub-  
5       lic access (including access by Federal, State, or  
6       local agencies) to the property of the property  
7       owner, or to modify public access or use of property  
8       of the property owner under any other Federal,  
9       State, or local law;

10              (3) alters any duly adopted land use regulation,  
11       approved land use plan, or other regulatory author-  
12       ity of any Federal, State, or local agency, or conveys  
13       any land use or other regulatory authority to the  
14       local coordinating entity;

15              (4) authorizes or implies the reservation or ap-  
16       propriation of water or water rights;

17              (5) diminishes the authority of the State to  
18       manage fish and wildlife, including the regulation of  
19       fishing and hunting within the Heritage Area; or

20              (6) creates any liability, or affects any liability  
21       under any other law, of any private property owner  
22       with respect to any person injured on the private  
23       property.

1 **SEC. 8. EVALUATION; REPORT.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years before the  
3 date on which authority for Federal funding terminates  
4 for the Heritage Area, the Secretary shall—

5 (1) conduct an evaluation of the accomplish-  
6 ments of the Heritage Area; and

7 (2) prepare a report in accordance with sub-  
8 section (c).

9 (b) EVALUATION.—An evaluation conducted under  
10 subsection (a)(1) shall—

11 (1) assess the progress of the local coordinating  
12 entity with respect to—

13 (A) accomplishing the purposes of this Act  
14 for the Heritage Area; and

15 (B) achieving the goals and objectives of  
16 the approved management plan for the Heritage  
17 Area;

18 (2) analyze the Federal, State, local, and pri-  
19 vate investments in the Heritage Area to determine  
20 the leverage and impact of the investments; and

21 (3) review the management structure, partner-  
22 ship relationships, and funding of the Heritage Area  
23 for purposes of identifying the critical components  
24 for sustainability of the Heritage Area.

25 (c) REPORT.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Based on the evaluation con-  
2           ducted under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall  
3           prepare a report that includes recommendations for  
4           the future role of the National Park Service, if any,  
5           with respect to the Heritage Area.

6           (2) REQUIRED ANALYSIS.—If the report pre-  
7           pared under paragraph (1) recommends that Fed-  
8           eral funding for the Heritage Area be reauthorized,  
9           the report shall include an analysis of—

10                   (A) ways in which Federal funding for the  
11                   Heritage Area may be reduced or eliminated;  
12                   and

13                   (B) the appropriate time period necessary  
14                   to achieve the recommended reduction or elimi-  
15                   nation.

16           (3) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—On completion  
17           of the report, the Secretary shall submit the report  
18           to—

19                   (A) the Committee on Energy and Natural  
20                   Resources of the Senate; and

21                   (B) the Committee on Natural Resources  
22                   of the House of Representatives.

23 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

24           (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-  
25           priated to carry out this Act \$10,000,000, of which not

1 more than \$1,000,000 may be authorized to be appro-  
2 priated for any fiscal year.

3 (b) **COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.**—The Federal  
4 share of the cost of any activity carried out using funds  
5 made available under this Act shall be not more than 50  
6 percent.

7 **SEC. 10. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**

8 The authority of the Secretary to provide financial  
9 assistance under this Act terminates on the date that is  
10 15 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

○