

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 29, 2017

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Congress
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Congress
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum,

We write to thank the Subcommittee for its previous support of the Heritage Partnership Program and to request that you provide funding for the coming fiscal year that is sufficiently robust so as to allow National Heritage Areas to continue their unprecedented levels of growth and success. The Heritage Partnership Programs received \$19.821 million in FY 2016.

The 49 National Heritage Areas across the country preserve and revitalize cultural, historic and natural resources, delivering recreational and educational opportunities to visitors, residents and entire regions. Through innovative public-private partnerships, National Heritage Areas have effectively leveraged federal resources, attracting an average of \$5.50 of private funding for each dollar appropriated.

Heritage Areas have a proven record of fostering job creation and advancing economic, cultural, historic, natural, and community development. In addition to creating jobs, National Heritage Areas generate valuable revenue for local governments and sustain communities through revitalization and heritage tourism. Lastly, Heritage Areas have undergone rigorous independent evaluations by the National Park Service which document the program's worth.

As a way of building on these successes, we respectfully urge the Subcommittee to ensure an enhanced level of funding for the Heritage Partnership Program in FY 2018 so all Areas can continue their important work. This vital funding will enable communities and regions to effectively tell the stories of their past for the benefit of present and future generations.

Again, we appreciate the Subcommittee's prior support for the Heritage Partnership Program and request this investment to strengthen and sustain the work of our nation's National Heritage Areas.

Sincerely,



Paul Tonko



Ryan A. Costello

Rick W. Allen

Rick W. Allen

Lou Barletta

Lou Barletta

Donald S. Beyer Jr.

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Rod Blum

Rod Blum

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John K. Delaney



Debbie Dingell



Mike Doyle



Eliot L. Engel



Elizabeth H. Esty



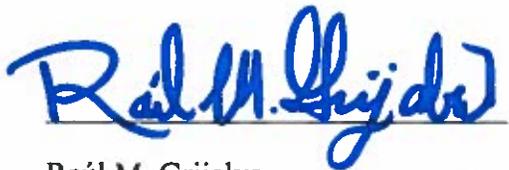
Dwight Evans



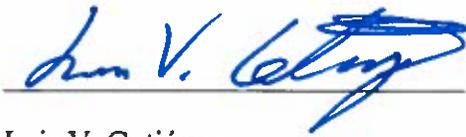
John J. Faso



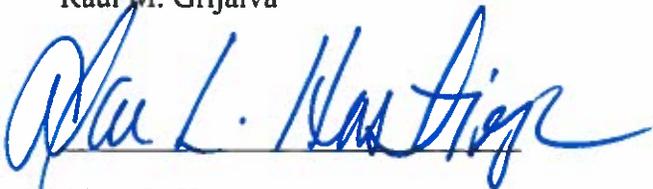
Brian K. Fitzpatrick



Raúl M. Grijalva



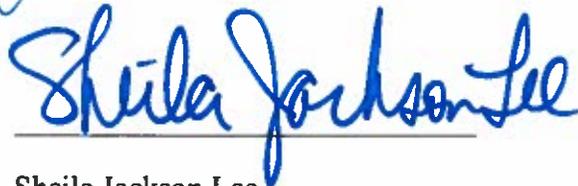
Luis V. Gutiérrez



Alcee L. Hastings



Brian Higgins



Sheila Jackson Lee



Pramila Jayapal



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.



John Katko



William R. Keating



Mike Kelly



Robin L. Kelly



Roben J. Kihuen



Dan Kildee



Ann McLane Kuster



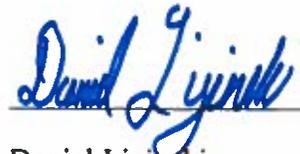
Darin LaHood



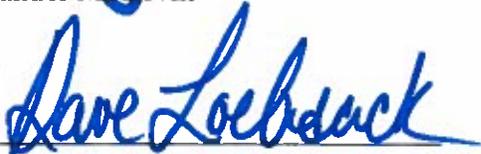
Brenda L. Lawrence



Sander M. Levin



Daniel Lipinski



Dave Loebsack



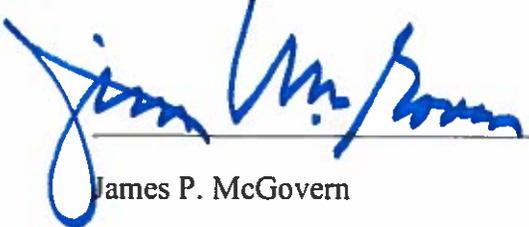
Ben Ray Lujan



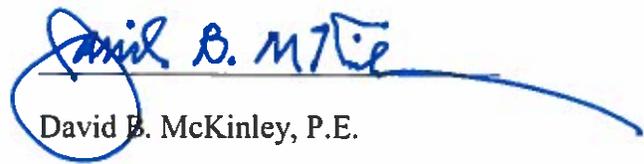
Michelle Lujan Grisham



Sean Patrick Maloney



James P. McGovern



David B. McKinley, P.E.



Patrick Meehan



Seth Moulton



Eleanor Holmes Norton



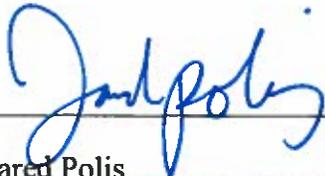
Bill Pascrell, Jr.



Donald M. Payne, Jr.



Scott Peters



Jared Polis



Jamie Raskin



Cedric Richmond



John Sarbanes



Bradley S. Schneider



Terri A. Sewell



Louise M. Slaughter



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