

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 706

To establish the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park, to dedicate the Park to John H. Chafee, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 14, 2013

Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. NEAL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park, to dedicate the Park to John H. Chafee, 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 “Blackstone River Val-
5 ley National Historical Park Establishment Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 The purpose of this Act is to establish the Blackstone
8 River Valley National Historical Park—

1 (1) to help preserve, protect, and interpret the
2 nationally significant resources that exemplify the
3 industrial heritage of the Blackstone River Valley
4 for the benefit and inspiration of future generations;

5 (2) to support the preservation, protection, and
6 interpretation of the urban, rural, and agricultural
7 landscape features (including the Blackstone River
8 and Canal) of the region that provide an overarching
9 context for the industrial heritage of the Blackstone
10 River Valley;

11 (3) to educate the public about—

12 (A) the nationally significant sites and dis-
13 tricts that convey the industrial history of the
14 Blackstone River Valley; and

15 (B) the significance of the Blackstone
16 River Valley to the past and present of the
17 United States; and

18 (4) to support and enhance the network of part-
19 ners in the protection, improvement, management,
20 and operation of related resources and facilities
21 throughout the John H. Chafee Blackstone River
22 Valley National Heritage Corridor.

23 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

24 In this Act:

1 (1) NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR.—The
2 term “National Heritage Corridor” means the John
3 H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Herit-
4 age Corridor.

5 (2) PARK.—The term “Park” means the Black-
6 stone River Valley National Historical Park estab-
7 lished under section 4.

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

10 (4) STATES.—The term “States” means—

11 (A) the State of Massachusetts; and

12 (B) the State of Rhode Island.

13 **SEC. 4. BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HISTOR-**
14 **ICAL PARK.**

15 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
16 States a unit of the National Park System, to be known
17 as the “Blackstone River Valley National Historical
18 Park”.

19 (b) HISTORIC SITES AND DISTRICTS.—The Park
20 shall include—

21 (1) Blackstone River State Park; and

22 (2) the following resources, as described in
23 Management Option 3 of the study entitled “Black-
24 stone River Valley Special Resource Study—Study
25 Report 2011”:

1 (A) Old Slater Mill National Historic
2 Landmark District.

3 (B) Slatersville Historic District.

4 (C) Ashton Historic District.

5 (D) Whitinsville Historic District.

6 (E) Hopedale Village Historic District.

7 (F) Blackstone River and the tributaries of
8 Blackstone River.

9 (G) Blackstone Canal.

10 (c) ACQUISITION OF LAND; PARK BOUNDARY.—

11 (1) LAND ACQUISITION.—The Secretary may
12 acquire land or interests in land that are considered
13 contributing historic resources in the historic sites
14 and districts described in subsection (b)(2) for inclu-
15 sion in the Park boundary by donation, purchase
16 from a willing seller with donated or appropriated
17 funds, or exchange.

18 (2) PARK BOUNDARY.—On a determination by
19 the Secretary that a sufficient quantity of land or
20 interests in land has been acquired to constitute a
21 manageable park unit, the Secretary shall establish
22 a boundary for the Park by publishing a boundary
23 map in the Federal Register.

24 (3) OTHER RESOURCES.—The Secretary may
25 include in the Park boundary any resources that are

1 the subject of an agreement with the States or a
2 subdivision of the States entered into under sub-
3 section (d)(4).

4 (4) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—On the acqui-
5 sition of additional land or interests in land under
6 paragraph (1), or on entering an agreement under
7 paragraph (3), the boundary of the Park shall be ad-
8 justed to reflect the acquisition or agreement by
9 publishing a Park boundary map in the Federal
10 Register.

11 (5) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The maps referred
12 to in this subsection shall be available for public in-
13 spection in the appropriate offices of the National
14 Park Service.

15 (6) ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES.—The Sec-
16 retary may acquire not more than 10 acres in
17 Woonsocket, Rhode Island for the development of
18 administrative, curatorial, maintenance, or visitor fa-
19 cilities for the Park.

20 (7) LIMITATION.—Land owned by the States or
21 a political subdivision of the States may be acquired
22 under this subsection only by donation.

23 (d) ADMINISTRATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall admin-
2 ister land within the boundary of the Park in ac-
3 cordance with—

4 (A) this section; and

5 (B) the laws generally applicable to units
6 of the National Park System, including—

7 (i) the National Park Service Organic
8 Act (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.); and

9 (ii) the Act of August 21, 1935 (16
10 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

11 (2) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years
13 after the date on which funds are made avail-
14 able to carry out this section, the Secretary
15 shall prepare a general management plan for
16 the Park—

17 (i) in consultation with the States and
18 other interested parties; and

19 (ii) in accordance with section 12(b)
20 of the National Park System General Au-
21 thorities Act (16 U.S.C. 1a–7(b)).

22 (B) REQUIREMENTS.—The plan shall con-
23 sider ways to use preexisting or planned visitor
24 facilities and recreational opportunities devel-

oped in the National Heritage Corridor, including—

(i) the Blackstone Valley Visitor Center, Pawtucket, Rhode Island;

(ii) the Captain Wilbur Kelly House, Blackstone River State Park, Lincoln, Rhode Island;

(iii) the Museum of Work and Culture, Woonsocket, Rhode Island;

(iv) the River Bend Farm/Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park, Uxbridge, Massachusetts;

(v) the Worcester Blackstone Visitor Center, located at the former Washburn & Moen wire mill facility, Worcester, Massachusetts;

(vi) the Route 295 Visitor Center adjacent to Blackstone River State Park; and

(vii) the Blackstone River Bikeway.

(3) RELATED SITES.—The Secretary may provide technical assistance, visitor services, interpretive tours, and educational programs to sites and resources in the National Heritage Corridor that are located outside the boundary of the Park and associ-

1 ated with the purposes for which the Park is estab-
2 lished.

3 (4) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—To further the pur-
5 poses of this section and notwithstanding chap-
6 ter 63 of title 31, United States Code, the Sec-
7 retary may enter into cooperative agreements
8 with the States, political subdivisions of the
9 States, nonprofit organizations (including
10 Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Cor-
11 ridor, Inc.), and other interested parties—

12 (i) to provide technical assistance, in-
13 terpretation, and educational programs in
14 the historic sites and districts described in
15 subsection (b)(2); and

16 (ii) subject to the availability of ap-
17 propriations and subparagraphs (B) and
18 (C), to provide not more than 50 percent
19 of the cost of any natural, historic, or cul-
20 tural resource protection project in the
21 Park that is consistent with the general
22 management plan prepared under para-
23 graph (2).

24 (B) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—As a con-
25 dition of the receipt of funds under subpara-

graph (A)(ii), the Secretary shall require that any Federal funds made available under a cooperative agreement entered into under this paragraph are to be matched on a 1-to-1 basis by non-Federal funds.

(C) REIMBURSEMENT.—Any payment made by the Secretary under subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be subject to an agreement that the conversion, use, or disposal of the project for purposes that are inconsistent with the purposes of this section, as determined by the Secretary, shall result in a right of the United States to reimbursement of the greater of—

(i) the amount provided by the Secretary to the project under subparagraph (A)(ii); or

(ii) an amount equal to the increase in the value of the project that is attributable to the funds, as determined by the Secretary at the time of the conversion, use, or disposal.

(D) PUBLIC ACCESS.—Any cooperative agreement entered into under this paragraph shall provide for reasonable public access to the resources covered by the cooperative agreement.

1 (e) DEDICATION; MEMORIAL.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Congress dedicates the Park
3 to John H. Chafee, the former United States Sen-
4 ator from Rhode Island, in recognition of—

5 (A) the role of John H. Chafee in the pres-
6 ervation of the resources of the Blackstone
7 River Valley and the heritage corridor that
8 bears the name of John H. Chafee; and

9 (B) the decades of the service of John H.
10 Chafee to the people of Rhode Island and the
11 United States.

12 (2) MEMORIAL.—The Secretary shall display a
13 memorial at an appropriate location in the Park that
14 recognizes the role of John H. Chafee in preserving
15 the resources of the Blackstone River Valley for the
16 people of the United States.

17 **SEC. 5. JOHN H. CHAFEE BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY NA-**
18 **TIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR AMENDMENTS.**

19 Public Law 99–647 (16 U.S.C. 461 note; 100 Stat.
20 3625) is amended—

21 (1) in the first sentence of section 2 (110 Stat.
22 4202), by striking “the map entitled ‘Blackstone
23 River Valley National Heritage Corridor Boundary
24 Map’, numbered BRV–80–80,011, and dated May 2,
25 1993” and inserting “the map entitled ‘John H.

1 Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage
2 Corridor—Proposed Boundary’, numbered 022/
3 111530, and dated November 10, 2011”;

4 (2) in section 7 (120 Stat. 1858, 125 Stat.
5 155)—

6 (A) in the section heading, by striking
7 “termination of commission” and inserting
8 “termination of commission; designation of local
9 coordinating entity”;

10 (B) by striking “The Commission” and in-
11 serting the following:

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission”; and

13 (C) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(b) LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.—

15 “(1) DESIGNATION.—The Blackstone River
16 Valley National Heritage Corridor, Inc., shall be the
17 local coordinating entity for the Corridor (referred to
18 in this section as the ‘local coordinating entity’).

19 “(2) IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT
20 PLAN.—The local coordinating entity shall assume
21 the duties of the Commission for the implementation
22 of the Cultural Heritage and Land Management
23 Plan developed and approved under section 6.

1 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—For the purposes of carrying
2 out the management plan, the local coordinating entity
3 may use amounts made available under this Act—

4 “(1) to make grants to the States of Massachu-
5 setts and Rhode Island (referred to in this section
6 as the ‘States’), political subdivisions of the States,
7 nonprofit organizations, and other persons;

8 “(2) to enter into cooperative agreements with
9 or provide technical assistance to the States, political
10 subdivisions of the States, nonprofit organizations,
11 Federal agencies, and other interested parties;

12 “(3) to hire and compensate staff, including in-
13 dividuals with expertise in—

14 “(A) natural, historical, cultural, edu-
15 cational, scenic, and recreational resource con-
16 servation;

17 “(B) economic and community develop-
18 ment; or

19 “(C) heritage planning;

20 “(4) to obtain funds or services from any
21 source, including funds and services provided under
22 any other Federal law or program;

23 “(5) to contract for goods or services; and

24 “(6) to support activities of partners and any
25 other activities that further the purposes of the Cor-

1 ridor and are consistent with the approved manage-
2 ment plan.”;

3 (3) in section 8 (120 Stat. 1858)—

4 (A) in subsection (b)—

5 (i) by striking “The Secretary” and
6 inserting the following:

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

8 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Notwith-
11 standing chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code,
12 the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements
13 with the local coordinating entity designated by
14 paragraph (1) and other public or private entities
15 for the purpose of—

16 “(A) providing technical assistance; or

17 “(B) implementing the plan under section
18 6(c).”; and

19 (B) by striking subsection (d) and insert-
20 ing the following:

21 “(d) TRANSITION MEMORANDUM OF UNDER-
22 STANDING.—The Secretary shall enter into a memo-
23 randum of understanding with the local coordinating enti-
24 ty to ensure—

1 “(1) the appropriate transition of management
 2 of the Corridor from the Commission to the local co-
 3 ordinating entity; and

4 “(2) coordination regarding the implementation
 5 of the Cultural Heritage and Land Management
 6 Plan.”;

7 (4) in section 10 (120 Stat. 1858)—

8 (A) in subsection (a) by striking “for each
 9 year in which the Commission is in existence”
 10 and replace with “until September 30, 2016”;
 11 and

12 (B) by striking subsection (c); and

13 (5) by adding at the end the following:

14 **“SEC. 11. REFERENCES TO THE CORRIDOR, INC.**

15 “For purposes of sections 6, 8, 9 and 10 (other than
 16 section 8(d)(1)), a reference to the ‘Commission’ shall be
 17 considered to be a reference to the local coordinating enti-
 18 ty.”.

19 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
 21 as are necessary to carry out sections 2 through 4.

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