

Rep. David Trone Statement on H.R.1727 to the Federal Lands Subcommittee of the House
Natural Resources Committee

Thank you, House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Grijalva, as well as Federal Lands Subcommittee Chairman Tiffany and Ranking Member Neguse, for bringing forth my bill, H.R.1727, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission Extension Act, to be heard by the subcommittee. I was proud to introduce this bipartisan measure to ensure the C&O Canal National Historical Park Commission continues its critical role of preserving and supporting the C&O Canal.

The C&O Canal National Historical Park is 184.5 miles long and covers 20,000 acres winding north and west along the Potomac River from the heart of Washington D.C. to Cumberland, MD. The watered canal, contiguous towpath, hundreds of historic structures, and pre-Civil War-era towns all tell the story of how the C&O Canal once served as a crucial commercial link while highlighting the canal's lasting significance to the community. The park also preserves pristine views of the Potomac River.

First established in 1971, the Advisory Commission operates at a nominal cost, serving in a purely advisory role to the National Park Service. Every 10 years, Congress must reauthorize the Advisory Commission. The Commission has been reauthorized three times with overwhelming congressional support as the body plays a valuable role. I urge the subcommittee's support for H.R.1727 and the safekeeping of the canal for years to come.