

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4430

To establish the New York Canal National Heritage Corridor as an affiliated unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 6, 1998

Mr. LAFALCE (for himself, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. McNULTY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To establish the New York Canal National Heritage Corridor as an affiliated unit of the National Park System, 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 “New York Canal Na-
5 tional Heritage Corridor Act of 1998”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The 524 miles of working canal that com-
9 pose the New York canal system and the approxi-
10 mately 75 miles of the old Erie Canal alignment (in

1 this Act referred to as the “New York Canal Cor-
2 ridor”) comprise a resource and an opportunity from
3 a tourism, economic development, recreational, and
4 historical standpoint that is not currently rep-
5 resented in the National Park System.

6 (2) The influence of the Erie Canal system and
7 related waterways, especially during the 1826
8 through 1860 period, extends into themes as diverse
9 as literature, music, social reform, religious and po-
10 litical movements, and ethnic diversity.

11 (3) In their dimensions, construction, and oper-
12 ation, most American canals were modeled on the
13 New York canal system.

14 (4) Both the 19th and 20th century iterations
15 of the New York canal system were the largest pub-
16 lic works projects ever undertaken by a State.

17 (5) The Erie Canal came to symbolize canals
18 and the westward movement, figuring prominently in
19 popular music, art, and literature.

20 (6) The Champlain portion of the New York
21 canal system became, in effect, the canal of western
22 New England, especially Vermont.

23 (7) The Hudson Canal corridor helped make
24 New York City preeminent in the Nation’s finance

1 and commerce, which in turn facilitated the rise of
2 the “Empire State”.

3 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are the fol-
4 lowing:

5 (1) To establish and recognize the New York
6 Canal Corridor as an affiliated unit of the National
7 Park System.

8 (2) To provide encouragement to those villages,
9 towns, cities, and counties along the Canal Corridor
10 that seek to revitalize the Canal Corridor through
11 economic development, job creation, recreation, and
12 tourism.

13 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL CANAL CORRIDOR.**

14 There is established, as an affiliated unit of the Na-
15 tional Park System, the New York Canal National Herit-
16 age Corridor (in this Act referred to as the “Heritage Cor-
17 ridor”).

18 **SEC. 4. HERITAGE CORRIDOR BOUNDARIES.**

19 The boundaries of the Heritage Corridor shall include
20 the counties that are located along the New York Canal
21 Corridor and connecting waterways.

22 **SEC. 5. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.**

23 The Secretaries of the Departments of Interior,
24 Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture, and Trans-
25 portation, and the heads of other appropriate Federal

1 agencies may, upon the request of local governments with-
2 in the Heritage Corridor, use otherwise available amounts
3 to assist in the implementation of Heritage Corridor ac-
4 tivities through any program under which such local gov-
5 ernments may be assisted. Such assistance shall be an eli-
6 gible cost of such program.

7 **SEC. 6. NO FEDERAL RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE.**

8 Nothing in this Act shall be construed as a restriction
9 on land use, development, or any other local or individual
10 action.

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