

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5014

To direct the Director of the National Park Service to prepare a report on the sustainability of the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor and the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Commission.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2004

Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, and Mr. LANGEVIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To direct the Director of the National Park Service to prepare a report on the sustainability of the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor and the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Commission.

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 “John H. Chafee Black-
5 stone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Sustain-
6 ability Report Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

3 (1) the Blackstone River Valley National Herit-
4 age Corridor (redesignated the John H. Chafee
5 Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor
6 in 1999) was established in 1986 in recognition of
7 the national importance of the region as the birth-
8 place of the American Industrial Revolution;

9 (2) the Corridor has become a national model
10 of how the National Park Service can work coopera-
11 tively with local communities and a multi-agency
12 partnership to create a seamless system of parks,
13 preserved historic sites, and open spaces that en-
14 hance the protection and understanding of America's
15 heritage, without Federal ownership and regulations;

16 (3) the Corridor is managed by a bi-State, 19-
17 member Federal commission representing Federal,
18 State and local authorities from the Commonwealth
19 of Massachusetts and the State of Rhode Island
20 whose mandate has been to implement an approved
21 integrated resource management plan;

22 (4) the authorization and funding for the John
23 H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Herit-
24 age Commission are scheduled to expire in Novem-
25 ber 2006, while the Federal designation of the area
26 and its boundaries continues in perpetuity; and

1 (5) the National Park System Advisory Board
2 will be reviewing the future of all national heritage
3 areas and making recommendations to the Director
4 of the National Park Service and the Secretary of
5 the Interior.

6 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

7 (1) to explore the options for preserving, en-
8 hancing, and interpreting the resources of the John
9 H. Chafee Blackstone River Corridor and the part-
10 nerships that sustain those resources; and

11 (2) to direct the Director of the National Park
12 Service to submit to Congress a report that—

13 (A) analyzes the sustainability of the Cor-
14 ridor; and

15 (B) provides recommendations for the fu-
16 ture of the Corridor.

17 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

18 In this Act:

19 (1) CORRIDOR.—The term “Corridor” means
20 the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley Na-
21 tional Heritage Corridor.

22 (2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
23 means the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley
24 National Heritage Commission.

1 (3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
2 the Director of the National Park Service.

3 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall prepare a re-
5 port on the sustainability of the Corridor.

6 (b) COMPONENTS.—The report prepared under sub-
7 section (a) shall—

8 (1) document the progress that has been made
9 in accomplishing the purpose of Public Law 99–647
10 (6 U.S.C. 461 note; 100 Stat. 3625) and the strate-
11 gies and goals set forth in the Cultural Heritage and
12 Land Management Plan for the Corridor, includ-
13 ing—

14 (A) historic preservation;

15 (B) interpretation and education;

16 (C) environmental recovery;

17 (D) recreational development; and

18 (E) economic improvement;

19 (2) based on the results documented under
20 paragraph (1), identify further actions and commit-
21 ments that are needed to protect, enhance, and in-
22 terpret the Corridor;

23 (3)(A) determine the extent of Federal funding
24 provided to the Corridor; and

1 (B) determine how the Federal funds have le-
2 veraged additional Federal, State, local, and private
3 funding for the Corridor since the establishment of
4 the Corridor; and

5 (4)(A) evaluate the Commission form of author-
6 ity and management structure for the Corridor, as
7 established by Public Law 99–647 (6 U.S.C. 461
8 note; 100 Stat. 3625); and

9 (B) identify and evaluate options for a perma-
10 nent National Park Service designation or a State
11 park or regional entity as a sustainable framework
12 to achieve the national interest of the Blackstone
13 Valley.

14 (c) COORDINATION.—To the maximum extent prac-
15 ticable, the Director shall prepare the report in coordina-
16 tion with the National Park System Advisory Board.

17 (d) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1
18 year after the date on which funds are made available to
19 carry out this Act, the Director shall submit to the Com-
20 mittee on Resources of the House of Representatives and
21 the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the
22 Senate the report prepared under subsection (a).

1 (e) FUNDING.—Funding to prepare the report under
2 this Act shall be made available from annual appropria-
3 tions for the Commission.

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