

ongoing Federal and State projects and activities. None of the funds made available for such activities pursuant to this section shall be counted against any Federal authorization ceiling established for any previously authorized Federal projects or activities.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Remediation Fund \$25,000,000. Subject to the limitations in section 804, such funds shall remain available until expended.

SEC. 804. SUNSET OF AUTHORITY.

This title—
(1) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) is repealed effective as of the date that is 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE IX—NATIONAL COAL HERITAGE AREA

SEC. 901. NATIONAL COAL HERITAGE AREA AMENDMENTS.

Title I of Division II of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 is amended as follows:

(1) In section 103(b)—
(A) by striking “comprised of the counties” and inserting “shall be comprised of the following:

“(1) The counties; and”.

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) (as so designated by paragraph (1) of this subsection) the following new paragraphs:

“(2) Lincoln County, West Virginia.

“(3) Paint Creek and Cabin Creek within Kanawha County, West Virginia.”.

(2) In section 104, by striking “Governor” and all that follows through “organizations” and inserting “National Coal Heritage Area Authority, a public corporation and government instrumentality established by the State of West Virginia, pursuant to which the Secretary shall assist the National Coal Heritage Area Authority”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Senate 203 includes several titles in this carefully constructed bill. Title I provides for the temporary reduction of soda ash royalties; title II establishes 10 National Heritage Areas; title III authorizes three suitability and feasibility studies for new heritage areas; titles IV makes improvement to and reauthorizes the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor; title V authorizes an important water storage study; title VI authorizes a special resources study in the State of Delaware to determine the suitability of including certain sites in the National Park System; title VII reauthorizes the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Val-

ley National Heritage Corridor; title VIII authorizes the California Reclamation Groundwater Remediation Initiative; and title IX makes corrections to the National Coal Heritage Area Act.

I urge my colleagues to support Senate 203.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, the majority has already explained the purpose of S. 203, which passed the Senate in July of last year. Many of the measures included in S. 203 are ones that previously passed the House and affect a broad range of signal historical, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources.

Madam Speaker, we support S. 203 and urge its adoption by the House today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, at this time I am honored and privileged to yield to my colleague, Mr. RYUN, who has been very active on parts of this bill that pertain to his interest in his district and State, and I yield him such time as he may consume.

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege today to rise in support of S. 203, the National Heritage Areas Act. I specifically rise in support of the language in the bill establishing the Freedom's Frontier Heritage Area in eastern Kansas and western Missouri. It is my honor to be the lead author on this language and am grateful to the rest of the Kansas delegation and to Mr. SKELTON for all their involvement in this bipartisan bill.

Today's consideration marks a major milestone after years of hard work at the grass-roots level. Countless individuals in my district and surrounding areas have worked tirelessly to bring this to this point, and I am grateful to each of them.

Freedom's Frontier Heritage Area will be pivotal in telling the stories of one of the most crucial periods in this Nation's history. During the lead-up to the Civil War, Kansas and Missouri played crucial and sometimes tragic roles in our struggle for unity and freedom. These are stories worth telling and worth preserving for our children and our grandchildren. Designation of this area is an extremely important act and will benefit many generations to come.

While the approval of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854 repealed the Missouri Compromise of 1820 and gave new territories the right to vote themselves into the Union as either free States or slave States, this was only the beginning of the struggle. The real cost of this fight would be paid by those who occupied those regions bordering the

traditional line separating free States from slave States.

Today, we stand as a united country and are much closer to the ideals set forth in our Constitution that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The liberty of all Americans is due in large part to the courageous occupants of yesterday's Freedom Frontier.

I am pleased to support this bill today, and I ask my colleagues to join me in ensuring that these stories will be told for generations to come. Support the Freedom's Frontier Heritage Act and National Heritage Areas Act.

MR. WALDEN of Oregon. Thank you for your comments and work on this important legislation. I think it is incredibly important to help people understand these issues and our past.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), who has worked very hard to establish the Crossroads of the American Revolution, the National Heritage Area in New Jersey.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman, and I rise in support of S. 203, the National Heritage Act, which includes designation of the Crossroads of the American Revolution in New Jersey as a National Heritage Area.

What a great and important story we have to tell our children, that we have to tell the world: the story of our War of Independence. And the land, the houses, the bridges and so much of New Jersey today tell that story.

As many of my colleagues know, New Jersey is often referred to as the crossroads of the American Revolution. For a number of reasons, thousands of troops crisscrossed the State and fought on our soil. The State's strategic location between the British stronghold of New York and the rebel capital in Philadelphia meant that New Jersey, New Jersey citizens, were at the crossroads. In fact, New Jersey had more military engagements during the Revolutionary War than any other State.

Although historians may know this, some of us are working hard to make sure that the role of New Jersey during the Revolution is understood more broadly. Some of the most important events of the war, especially the pivotal battles of Trenton and Princeton, took place in New Jersey.

New Jersey has hundreds of remnants of the war today surviving, including over 250 National Register Revolutionary War sites that are included in this heritage area designation covering 15 counties. Many traces of our Nation's Revolutionary War heritage still exist: mines, mills, encampment sites, battlegrounds, and barracks. Some of the sites include the Hunt House, in

Hopewell, New Jersey, the first headquarters of General Washington as he chased the British from New York to Pennsylvania; or the old barracks in Trenton, where the troops were housed; Rockingham House, where General Washington wrote his farewell message to the troops; or a road through the woods, now long abandoned, on which the soldiers marched to the battle of Monmouth; the Sandy Hook Light-house, which was the guardian of New York Harbor and used by both British and American armies.

The list goes on and on, and that is why this designation of a heritage area is so important for New Jersey. Most notable in our history books, of course, is the famous crossing of the Delaware by General Washington and his men. What happened at the crossing of Delaware is a story that must be told again and again so all generations will know this military feat and the new life it gave to the American Revolution.

By the winter of 1776, the War for Independence was going badly. General Washington and his Continental Army had experienced defeat after defeat and retreated to Pennsylvania for the winter. It was brutally cold and morale was low. Many were losing faith in the leadership of General Washington. By late afternoon on Christmas Day 1776, over 2,400 troops began to cross the icy water of the Delaware. The weather made the operation difficult. The troops were forced to fight their way through blinding winter weather.

The sleet and snow proved too much for two of the divisions to the south, and General Washington's troops made the attack alone. Against all odds, Washington and his soldiers completed the crossing, marched silently to Trenton, with cannon, and on Christmas night arrived taking the Hessian garrison completely by surprise. This engagement, followed by the pivotal Battle of Princeton, has been called "the beginning of the winning."

Military engagements were fought throughout New Jersey, and they gave the first glimpse to the world that the American people might succeed in this fight for independence. In New Jersey, also, there was the crossroads of ideas. There were people loyal to the Crown and those who were loyal to Adams and Washington and the other revolutionaries. The difference was contested within families, in towns, and on farmsteads. New Jersey really was at the crux of the Revolution, the crossroads of the American Revolution.

I became involved in this effort to establish the Crossroads when I first came to Congress in 1999. And with the guidance and leadership from historians and planners, champions of open space preservation, such as Dr. Ted Stiles, I developed the concept of this heritage designation. I sought the assistance of my colleague from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), and we were able to see the passage of legislation that would direct the Park Service to conduct a feasibility study of the region.

We passed this feasibility study with flying colors, obtaining an enthusiastic report from the Park Service that New Jersey had a rich history and many surviving remnants of the War of Independence that make the region a fine candidate for a heritage area. Since the study, many State legislators, local governments, and other organizations have endorsed the idea of establishing the Crossroads of the American Revolution Heritage Area.

After the initial findings from the National Park Service in August 2002, Representative FRELINGHUYSEN and I introduced the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Act. Finally, today, we have it before us on the floor of this body.

Establishing this heritage area is an important way to preserve the historic remnants that will allow the telling of New Jersey's role in the building of this great Nation. It combines historic preservation, environmental protection, education, recreation, open space acquisition, travel, and tourism. The creation of the heritage area means a great deal for all of these organizations, private and public, in New Jersey that are working in all of these areas to acquire open space, to provide for recreation and education and environmental protection.

Community leaders and local governments who care deeply about preserving open space and protecting historic sites will work with the local management agency to achieve these goals. The National Heritage Area will be, I think, important for the education not just of the children of New Jersey but for the people of this country. Everyone should know what New Jersey brought to the American Revolution, and preserving these sites and tying them together under this theme will certainly help in this endeavor.

Our current Governor of New Jersey, Jon Corzine, before he left Capitol Hill, succeeded in carrying this through the other body across the Capitol, and I want to thank all of those involved over the past years that have been instrumental in designating the Crossroads of the American Revolution Heritage Area. I see no better way to honor New Jersey and the people who were instrumental during the American Revolution than by establishing this heritage area.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I wish to thank the gentleman from New Jersey, and I commend him and all of our colleagues who have worked diligently to advance this legislation.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), chairman of the Committee on Resources, for bringing through the House of Representatives S. 203, the National Heritage Areas Act of 2005, legislation that establishes the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area and designates a number of other National Heritage Areas.

This legislation will establish a National Heritage Area that enables New Jersey's critical role in the American Revolution to be fully un-

derstood and appreciated. It would combine the opportunity to protect and preserve historic sites, retain the aesthetic character of the landscape, and provide recreational opportunities.

New Jersey was quite literally the crossroads of America's Revolutionary War. New Jersey represented a turning point in the Revolution, too, as America's struggle for Independence was nearly lost. More Revolutionary War battles were engaged in New Jersey than in any other state, nearly 300, and it is high time our state receives the recognition it deserves.

The establishment of the Crossroads National Heritage Area has long been in the works. In the 107th Congress, I introduced the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Act along with Representative HOLT.

In the Fiscal Year 2000 Interior Appropriations Act, I secured funding for the Secretary of Interior to conduct a "Special Resources Study" of the Crossroads region in New Jersey. On July 8, 2002 the study was released. The study specifies that the Crossroads of the American Revolution region and the people of New Jersey will create a unique sense of place; one of protected Revolutionary War landscapes and cultural sites, recreational opportunities and compatible economic development. The study area included 15 counties spanning the state from Morris, Bergen and Passaic in the north to Camden and Gloucester in the south. It is within this region that most of the Revolutionary War actions occurred and it contains a preponderance of New Jersey's existing American Revolutionary resources.

This legislation highlights New Jersey's unequaled heritage and shows how our spectacular landscape contributed to the winning of the Revolutionary War. In conclusion, I believe the establishment of the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area will provide the direction and resources needed to maintain what the area has to offer for generations to come. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has been said that politics is the art of compromise.

Today, the House is debating a bill that would designate a number of National Heritage Areas throughout the United States, including the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area in western Missouri and eastern Kansas. That portion of the bill, which was drafted by my good friend from Kansas, Congressman JIM RYUN, is the product of much negotiation and compromise, and I am pleased to lend my support to it.

As a student of history, I believe it is part of our government's responsibility to promote history education and to provide opportunities for the American people to learn about our nation's rich past. Doing so is critical to forming a more perfect union and to ensuring we do not repeat the mistakes of yesteryear.

The people of Missouri and Kansas have contributed a great deal to our nation. In many ways, the border region has mirrored the finest and darkest days in American history. From the bloody border conflicts that set the stage for the Civil War to our mutual struggle to expand the definition of freedom, Missourians and Kansans have played a role in this