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The Preserve America Program began as a concept on how to better implement the federal government's responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act. The Preserve America initiative achieved a new success when Congress sent the Omnibus Public Land Management Act to President Obama, and he signed it into law on March 30.

It took a great deal of creativity, effort, and caring on the part of many federal agencies to bring Preserve America to this important milestone.

Today I am pleased that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation is recognizing the National Endowment for the Humanities for its pioneering participation and leadership with the Preserve America program. Its efforts have been fundamental to the success the program has achieved.

The NEH has helped create and guide the Preserve America initiative as a founding member of the Preserve America Steering Committee.

The professionalism and expertise of its staff have greatly contributed to the success of the Preserve America Presidential Award program.

The NEH provided essential support and participation in the 2006 Preserve America Summit in New Orleans.

NEH programs such as We the People and the EDSITEment online feature provide vital funding and technical assistance for public interpretation and education.

In short, the NEH has helped the entire federal government attain Preserve America and National Historic Preservation Act goals.

It is my pleasure to ask Carole M. Watson, Acting Chairman for the National Endowment for the Humanities and a great friend for preservation and Preserve America, to come forward to accept this commendation from the ACHP.

Thank you Carole, and thanks to the NEH for its wonderful work on behalf of the federal government and the American people.