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John M. Fowler
Executive Director



Preserving America's Heritage

September 6, 2005

The Honorable Richard W. Pombo
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Pombo:

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) wishes to express its continued support for the establishment of national policy to guide creation of National Heritage Areas. Established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the ACHP is the independent Federal agency charged with advising the President and Congress on matters relating to historic preservation. In May, the ACHP voted to endorse the proposed National Heritage Areas Partnership Act (S. 243) as reported out of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. That bill, as amended, has since been passed by the Senate and referred to the House Committee on Resources.

Establishment of National Heritage Areas is an important means by which the Federal government can provide needed funding and technical assistance to local decision makers to assist in planning for, managing, and promoting their heritage assets. Designation and Federal support leverages grass-roots efforts to promote and coordinate historic preservation, heritage tourism, economic development, recreation, and public education initiatives. Federal designation of National Heritage Areas reflects the goals of the White House's *Preserve America* initiative, which encourages and supports community efforts to preserve and enjoy our priceless cultural and natural heritage.

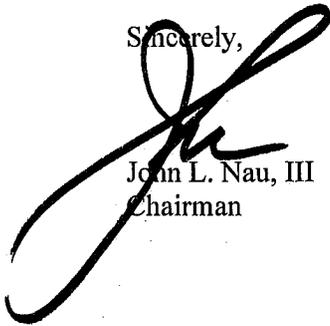
As local interest in designation of National Heritage Areas continues to escalate, increased predictability and consistency are needed in the designation process. The National Heritage Areas Partnership Act establishes policy and a program structure that are much needed and which will increase the effectiveness of this important tool for historic preservation and economic revitalization.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions on our position or if the ACHP can be of any assistance during further consideration of S. 243. Our Executive Director, John Fowler, can be reached at (202) 606-8503.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JL Nau', written over the typed name.

John L. Nau, III
Chairman