

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1348

To establish the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor in the State of Connecticut, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 16, 1993

Mr. GEJDENSON (for himself, Mrs. KENNELLY, Ms. DELAURO, and Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor in the State of Connecticut, 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 “Quinebaug and
5 Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act
6 of 1993”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds that:

1 (1) The Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley
2 in the State of Connecticut is one of the last un-
3 spoiled and undeveloped areas in the Northeastern
4 United States and has remained largely intact, in-
5 cluding important aboriginal archaeological sites, ex-
6 cellent water quality, beautiful rural landscapes,
7 architecturally significant mill structures and mill
8 villages, and large acreage of parks and other per-
9 manent open space.

10 (2) The State of Connecticut ranks last among
11 the 50 States in the amount of federally protected
12 park and open space lands within its borders and
13 lags far behind the other northeastern States in the
14 amount of land set-aside for public recreation.

15 (3) The beautiful rural landscapes, scenic vistas
16 and excellent water quality of the Quinebaug and
17 Shetucket Rivers contain significant undeveloped
18 recreational opportunities for people throughout the
19 United States.

20 (4) The Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley
21 is within a 2-hour drive of the major metropolitan
22 areas of New York City, Hartford, Providence,
23 Worcester, Springfield, and Boston. With the Presi-
24 dent's Commission on Americans Outdoors reporting
25 that Americans are taking shorter "closer-to-home"

1 vacations, the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Val-
2 ley represents important close-by recreational oppor-
3 tunities for significant population.

4 (5) The existing mill sites and other structures
5 throughout the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers
6 Valley were instrumental in the development of the
7 industrial revolution.

8 (6) The Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley
9 contains a vast number of discovered and unre-
10 covered Native American and colonial archaeological
11 sites significant to the history of North America and
12 the United States.

13 (7) The Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley
14 represents one of the last traditional upland farming
15 and mill village communities in the northeastern
16 United States.

17 (8) The Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley
18 played a nationally significant role in the cultural
19 evolution of the prewar colonial period. Leading the
20 transformation from Puritan to Yankee, the “Great
21 Awakening” religious revival and early political de-
22 velopment leading up to and during the War of
23 Independence.

24 (9) Many local, regional and State agencies,
25 businesses, and private citizens and the New Eng-

1 land Governors' Conference have expressed an over-
2 whelming desire to combine forces: to work coopera-
3 tively to preserve and enhance resources region-wide
4 and better plan for the future.

5 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUINEBAUG AND SHETUCKET**
6 **RIVERS VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE COR-**
7 **RIDOR; PURPOSE.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established in
9 the State of Connecticut the Quinebaug and Shetucket
10 Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor.

11 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to pro-
12 vide a management framework to assist the State of Con-
13 necticut, its units of local and regional government and
14 citizens in the development and implementation of inte-
15 grated cultural, historical, and recreational land resource
16 management programs in order to retain, enhance, and
17 interpret the significant features of the lands, water, and
18 structures of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley
19 in the State of Connecticut.

20 **SEC. 4. BOUNDARIES AND ADMINISTRATION.**

21 (a) BOUNDARIES.—The Boundaries of the Corridor
22 shall include the towns of Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury,
23 Chaplin, Coventry, Eastford, Franklin, Griswold, Hamp-
24 ton, Killingly, Lebanon, Lisbon, Mansfield, Norwich,
25 Plainfield, Pomfret, Preston, Putnam, Scotland, Sprague,

1 Sterling, Thompson, Voluntown, Windham, and Wood-
2 stock. As soon as practical after the date of enactment
3 of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish in
4 the Federal Register a detailed description and map of
5 boundaries established under this subsection.

6 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Corridor shall be admin-
7 istered in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

8 **SEC. 5. QUINEBAUG AND SHETUCKET RIVERS VALLEY NA-**
9 **TIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR COMMISSION.**

10 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established
11 the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Her-
12 itage Corridor Commission (referred to in this Act as the
13 “Commission”). The Commission shall assist appropriate
14 Federal, State, regional planning organizations, and local
15 authorities in the development and implementation of an
16 integrated resource management plan for the lands and
17 water as specified in section 3.

18 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Commission shall be com-
19 prised of 19 members appointed not later than 6 months
20 after the date of enactment of this Act as follows:

21 (1) The Director of the National Park Service
22 ex officio (or his delegate).

23 (2) 3 individuals nominated by the Governor
24 and appointed by the Secretary, who shall be—

1 (A) the Commissioner of the Connecticut
2 Department of Environmental Protection, or a
3 person representing the interests of the Com-
4 missioner;

5 (B) the Chairman of the Connecticut His-
6 torical Commission or a person representing the
7 interests of the Chairman, and

8 (C) the Commissioner of the Connecticut
9 Department of Economic Development or a per-
10 son representing the interests of the Commis-
11 sioner;

12 (3) 6 individuals representing the interests of
13 local government or regional planning organizations
14 from Connecticut appointed by the Secretary after
15 receiving recommendations from the Governor, of
16 whom, 3 shall be representatives of the 3 regional
17 planning organizations within the Corridor region
18 and 3 shall be local elected officials from the region;
19 and

20 (4) 9 individuals from the general public, who
21 are citizens of the State of Connecticut, appointed
22 by the Secretary, after receiving recommendations
23 from the Governor, representing conservation, busi-
24 ness, tourism, and recreational interests.

1 A vacancy in the Commission shall be filled in the manner
2 in which the original appointments were made.

3 (c) TERMS.—(1) Members of the Commission shall
4 be appointed for terms of 3 years and may be reappointed.

5 (2) Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring
6 before the expiration of the term for which his predecessor
7 was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder
8 of such term. Any member of the Commission appointed
9 for a definite term may serve after the expiration of his
10 term until his successor has taken office.

11 (d) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Commission
12 shall receive no pay on account of their service on the
13 Commission but while away from their homes or regular
14 places of business in the performance of services for the
15 Commission, members of the Commission shall be allowed
16 travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence,
17 in the same manner as persons employed intermittently
18 in the Government service are allowed expenses under sec-
19 tion 5703 of title 5, United State Code.

20 (e) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Commis-
21 sion shall be elected by the members of the Commission.

22 (f) QUORUM.—(1) 8 members of the Commission
23 shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold
24 hearings.

1 (2) The affirmative vote of not less than 10 members
2 of the Commission shall be required to approve the budget
3 of the Commission.

4 (g) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall hold its first
5 meeting not later than 90 days after the date on which
6 its members are appointed, and shall meet at least quar-
7 terly at the call of the chairperson or 10 of its members.
8 Meetings of the Commission shall be subject to section
9 552(b) of title 5, United States Code (relating to open
10 meetings).

11 (h) PROXY.—Any member of the Commission may
12 vote by means of a signed proxy exercised by another
13 member of the Commission, but any member so voting
14 shall not be considered present for purposes of establish-
15 ing a quorum.

16 **SEC. 6. STAFF OF THE COMMISSION.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—(1) The Commission shall have
18 the power to appoint and fix compensation of such staff
19 as may be necessary to carry out its duties.

20 (2) Staff appointed by the Commission—

21 (A) shall be appointed subject to the provisions
22 of title 5, United States Code, governing appoint-
23 ments in the competitive service; and

24 (B) shall be paid in accordance with provisions
25 of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of

1 such title relating to classification and General
2 Schedule pay rates.

3 (b) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—Subject to such
4 rules as may be adopted by the Commission, the Commis-
5 sion may procure temporary and intermittent services to
6 the same extent as is authorized by section 3109(b) of title
7 5, United States Code, but at rates determined by the
8 Commission to be reasonable.

9 (c) STAFF OF OTHER AGENCIES.—(1) Upon request
10 of the Commission, the head of any Federal agency may
11 detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the personnel of
12 such agency to the Commission to assist the Commission
13 in carrying out the Commission's duties.

14 (2) The Commission may accept the service of per-
15 sonnel detailed from the State, any political subdivision
16 and regional planning organizations, and may reimburse
17 the State, political subdivision, and regional planning or-
18 ganizations for those services.

19 **SEC. 7. POWERS OF COMMISSION.**

20 (a) HEARINGS.—(1) The Commission may, for the
21 purposes of carrying out this Act, hold hearings, sit and
22 act at such times and places, take such testimony, and
23 receive such evidence, as the Commission considers appro-
24 priate.

1 (2) The Commission may not issue subpoenas or ex-
2 ercise any subpoena authority.

3 (b) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any mem-
4 ber or agent of the Commission, if so authorized by the
5 Commission, may take any action which the Commission
6 is authorized to take by this Act.

7 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—The Ad-
8 ministrators of the General Services Administration shall
9 provide to the Commission on a reimbursable basis, such
10 administrative support services as the Commission may re-
11 quest.

12 (d) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United
13 States mails in the same manner and under the same con-
14 ditions as other departments and other agencies of the
15 United States.

16 (e) USE OF FUNDS TO OBTAIN MONEY.—The Com-
17 mission may use its funds to obtain money from any
18 source under any program or law requiring the recipient
19 of such money to make a contribution in order to receive
20 such money.

21 (f) GIFTS.—(1) Except as provided in subsection
22 (g)(2)(B), the Commission may, for purposes of carrying
23 out its duties, seek, accept, and dispose of gifts, bequests,
24 or donations of money, personal property, or services, re-
25 ceived from any source.

1 (2) For purposes of section 170(c) of the Internal
2 Revenue Code of 1986, any gift to the Commission shall
3 be deemed as a gift to the United States.

4 (g) ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY.—(1) Except
5 as provided in paragraph (2) and except with respect to
6 any leasing of facilities under subsection (c), the Commis-
7 sion may not acquire any real property or interest in real
8 property.

9 (2) Subject to paragraph (3), the Commission may
10 acquire real property or interest in real property in the
11 Corridor—

12 (A) by gift or devise; or

13 (B) by purchase from a willing seller with
14 money that was given, appropriated, or bequeathed
15 to the Commission on the condition that such money
16 would be used to purchase real property, or interest
17 in real property, in the Corridor.

18 (3) Any real property or interest in real property ac-
19 quired by the Commission under paragraph (2) shall be
20 conveyed by the Commission to an appropriate public or
21 private land management agency, as determined by the
22 Commission. Any such conveyance shall be made—

23 (A) as soon as practicable after such acquisi-
24 tion;

25 (B) without consideration; and

1 (C) on the condition that the real property or
2 interest in real property so conveyed is used for pub-
3 lic purposes.

4 (h) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—For purposes of
5 carrying out the plan, the Commission may enter into co-
6 operative agreements with the State of Connecticut, with
7 any political subdivision, or with any person or organiza-
8 tion. Any such cooperative agreement shall, at a minimum,
9 establish procedures for providing notice to the Commis-
10 sion of any action proposed by the State, such political
11 subdivision, or such person which may affect implementa-
12 tion of the plan referred to in section 8.

13 (i) ADVISORY GROUPS.—The Commission may estab-
14 lish such advisory groups as it deems necessary to ensure
15 open communication with, and assistance from, the State,
16 political subdivisions of the State, regional planning orga-
17 nizations and interested persons.

18 **SEC. 8. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.**

19 (a) PREPARATION OF PLAN.—Within 2 years after
20 the Commission conducts its first meeting, it shall submit
21 to the Secretary of the Interior and the Governor of Con-
22 necticut for review and approval of Cultural Heritage and
23 Corridor Management Plan. The Plan shall be based on
24 existing Federal, State, and local plans, but shall coordi-
25 nate those plans and present a unified historic preserva-

1 tion, interpretation, and recreational plan for the Cor-
2 ridor. The plan shall—

3 (1) provide an inventory which includes any
4 property in the Corridor which should be preserved,
5 restored, managed, developed, maintained, or ac-
6 quired because of its national historic or cultural or
7 recreational significance;

8 (2) recommend advisory standards and criteria
9 applicable to the construction, preservation, restora-
10 tion, alteration, and use of all properties within the
11 Corridor;

12 (3) develop an historic interpretation plan to in-
13 terpret the history of the Corridor;

14 (4) develop an inventory which includes existing
15 and potential recreational sites which are developed
16 or which could be developed along the Quinebaug
17 and Shetucket Rivers and their surrounding areas;

18 (5) recommend policies for resource manage-
19 ment which consider and detail application of appro-
20 priate land and water management techniques, in-
21 cluding but not limited to, the development of inter-
22 governmental cooperative agreements to protect the
23 Corridor's historical, cultural, recreational, scenic,
24 and natural resources in a manner consistent with

1 supporting appropriate and compatible economic re-
2 vitalization efforts;

3 (6) detail ways in which local, State, and Fed-
4 eral programs may best be coordinated to promote
5 the purposes of this Act; and

6 (7) contain a program for implementation of
7 the Plan by the State and its political subdivisions.

8 (b) IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN.—After review and
9 approval of the Plan by the Secretary and the Governor
10 as provided in subsection (a), the Commission shall imple-
11 ment the Plan by taking appropriate steps to preserve and
12 interpret the historic resources, develop the recreational
13 resources of the Corridor and its surrounding area, and
14 to support public and private efforts in economic revital-
15 ization, consistent with the goals of the Plan. These steps
16 may include, but need not be limited to—

17 (1) assisting the State and local governmental
18 entities or regional planning organizations, and non-
19 profit organizations in preserving the Corridor and
20 ensuring appropriate use of lands and structures
21 throughout the Corridor;

22 (2) assisting the State and local governmental
23 entities or regional planning organizations, and non-
24 profit organizations in establishing, and maintaining

1 visitor centers and other interpretive exhibits in the
2 Corridor;

3 (3) assisting the State and local governmental
4 entities or regional planning organizations, and non-
5 profit organizations in developing recreational pro-
6 grams and resources in the Corridor;

7 (4) assisting the State and local governmental
8 entities or regional planning organizations, and non-
9 profit organizations in increasing public awareness
10 of and appreciation for the historical and architec-
11 tural resources and sites in the Corridor;

12 (5) assisting the State and local governmental
13 or regional planning organizations and nonprofit or-
14 ganizations in the restoration of any historic build-
15 ing in the Corridor;

16 (6) encouraging by appropriate means enhanced
17 economic and industrial development in the Corridor
18 consistent with the goals of the Plan;

19 (7) encouraging local governments to adopt
20 land use policies consistent with the management of
21 the Corridor and the goals of the Plan, and to en-
22 sure appropriate use of lands and structures
23 throughout the Corridor; and

24 (8) assisting the State and local governmental
25 entities or regional planning organizations to ensure

1 that clear, consistent signs identifying access points
2 and sites of interest are put in place throughout the
3 Corridor.

4 **SEC. 9. TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.**

5 (a) TERMINATION.—Except as provided in subsection
6 (b), the Commission shall terminate on the day occurring
7 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

8 (b) EXTENSION.—The Commission may be extended
9 for a period of not more than 5 years beginning on the
10 day of termination referred to in subsection (a) if, not
11 later than 180 days before such day—

12 (1) the Commission determines such extension
13 is necessary in order to carry out the purposes of
14 this Act;

15 (2) the Commission submits such proposed ex-
16 tension to the Committee on Natural Resources of
17 the United States House of Representatives and the
18 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the
19 United States Senate; and

20 (3) the Secretary, in consultation with the Gov-
21 ernor of Connecticut, approves such extension.

22 **SEC. 10. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.**

23 (a) APPROVAL OF PLAN.—The Secretary of the Inte-
24 rior, in consultation with the Governor of Connecticut,
25 shall approve or disapprove a Plan submitted under this

1 Act by the Commission not later than 60 days after receiv-
2 ing such Plan. The Secretary, in consultation with the
3 Governor, shall approve a Plan submitted if—

4 (1) they find the Plan, if implemented, would
5 adequately protect significant historical and cultural
6 resources of the Corridor while providing adequate
7 and appropriate outdoor recreational opportunities
8 and economic activities within the Corridor;

9 (2) they determine that the Commission held
10 public hearings and provided adequate opportunity
11 for public and governmental involvement in the prep-
12 aration of the Plan; and

13 (3) the Secretary receives adequate assurances
14 from appropriate State officials that the rec-
15 ommended implementation program identified in the
16 Plan will be initiated within a reasonable time after
17 date of approval of the Plan, and that such imple-
18 mentation program will ensure effective implementa-
19 tion of the State and local aspects of the Plan.

20 (d) DISAPPROVAL OF PLAN.—If the Secretary dis-
21 approves a Plan submitted to him by the Commission, he
22 shall advise the Commission in writing of the reasons
23 therefor and shall make recommendations for revisions in
24 the Plan. The Commission shall within 90 days of receipt
25 of such notice of disapproval revise and resubmit the plan

1 to the Secretary who shall approve or disapprove a pro-
2 posed revision within 60 days after the date it is submitted
3 to him.

4 (c) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of the Interior shall,
5 upon request of the Commission, assist the Commission
6 in the preparation and implementation of Plan.

7 **SEC. 11. DUTIES OF OTHER FEDERAL ENTITIES.**

8 Any Federal entity conducting or supporting activi-
9 ties directly affecting the Corridor shall—

10 (1) consult with the Secretary and the Commis-
11 sion with respect to such activities;

12 (2) cooperate with the Secretary and the Com-
13 mission with respect to such activities and, to the
14 maximum extent practicable, coordinate such activi-
15 ties; and

16 (3) to the maximum extent practicable, conduct
17 or support such activities in a manner which the
18 Commission determines will not have an adverse ef-
19 fect on the Corridor.

20 **SEC. 12. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 (a) COMMISSION.—There is authorized to be appro-
22 priated \$200,000 for fiscal year 1994 and 250,000 annu-
23 ally to the Commission to carry out its duties under this
24 Act except that the Federal contributions to the Commis-

1 sion shall not exceed 50 percent of the annual costs to
2 the Commission in carrying out those duties.

3 (b) SECRETARY.—There are authorized to be appro-
4 priated annually to the Secretary such sums as may be
5 necessary to carry out his duties under this Act.

6 **SEC. 13. DEFINITIONS.**

7 For purposes of this Act—

8 (1) The term “Commission” means the
9 Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National
10 Heritage Corridor Commission established under
11 section 5.

12 (2) The term “State” means the State of Con-
13 necticut.

14 (3) The term “Corridor” means the Quinebaug
15 and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Cor-
16 ridor established under section 3.

17 (4) The term “Plan” means the Cultural Herit-
18 age and Corridor Management Plan to be prepared
19 by the Commission pursuant to section 8.

20 (5) The term “Governor” means the Governor
21 of the State of Connecticut.

22 (6) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
23 of the Interior.

24 (7) The term “regional planning organization”
25 means each of the 3 regional planning organizations

1 established by Connecticut State statute chapter 127
2 and chapter 50 (the Northeast Council of Govern-
3 ments, the Windham Regional Planning Agency or
4 its successor, and the Southeastern Connecticut Re-
5 gional Planning Agency or its successor).

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