

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1949

To amend the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act of 1994, to increase the authorization of appropriations and modify the date on which the authority of the Secretary of the Interior terminates under the Act.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 19, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY (for himself and Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act of 1994, to increase the authorization of appropriations and modify the date on which the authority of the Secretary of the Interior terminates under the Act.

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
6 Amendments Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds as follows:

3 (1) Thousands of individuals, hundreds of non-
4 profit organizations, businesses, local and regional
5 organizations, 35 towns, and 2 States have worked
6 to preserve and enhance the significant natural, his-
7 toric, cultural, and scenic resources of the
8 Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National
9 Heritage Corridor, and area which is commonly
10 known as “The Last Green Valley”.

11 (2) The Green Valley Institute, a partnership
12 between the University of Connecticut and the coop-
13 erative extension system of the University of Massa-
14 chusetts, has significantly improved the information
15 base available to the primarily volunteer municipal
16 officials that are responsible for making land use
17 and natural resource conservation decisions with re-
18 spect to the Last Green Valley.

19 (3) During the 5 years preceding the date of
20 the enactment of this Act, the Green Valley Institute
21 was recognized with 8 State or national awards for
22 public education.

23 (4) Significant historic structures have been
24 identified and restored under the programs carried
25 out in the Heritage Corridor.

1 (5) Museums, attractions, landscapes, and busi-
2 nesses have been assembled into cohesive interpre-
3 tive projects that tell the stories of The Last Green
4 Valley for residents and tourists.

5 (6) As part of the vision to sustain the tradi-
6 tional land-based economy of the region, the Herit-
7 age Corridor has—

8 (A) developed agritourism and continuing
9 education programs for the region; and

10 (B) collected and analyzed data relating to
11 the vision.

12 (7) Recreational tourism has been enhanced by
13 the many trails, greenways, river access, and inter-
14 pretive projects in the Heritage Corridor.

15 (8) Each of the 35 municipal governments with-
16 in the Heritage Corridor has signed a voluntary and
17 non-binding community compact in which the gov-
18 ernments—

19 (A) accept the goals and objectives of the
20 management plan for the Heritage Corridor;
21 and

22 (B) formalize the commitment of the gov-
23 ernments to balance conservation and growth
24 and the collective vision for the watershed.

1 (9) During the past 11 years, the Heritage Cor-
2 ridor has consistently leveraged an average of \$19
3 for every Federal dollar invested in the Heritage
4 Corridor.

5 (10) The Heritage Corridor has adopted, and is
6 implementing, a comprehensive plan, titled “The
7 Trail to 2015, A Sustainability Plan for The Last
8 Green Valley”, to become self-sufficient by the year
9 2015.

10 (11) Reauthorizing the Heritage Corridor would
11 leverage significant multi-year commitments and en-
12 sure self-sufficiency by 2015 for the programs and
13 projects that are fulfilling the mission of the Herit-
14 age Corridor.

15 **SEC. 3. QUINEBAUG AND SHETUCKET RIVERS VALLEY NA-**
16 **TIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR.**

17 (a) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—Section 106(b)
18 of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National
19 Heritage corridor Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 461 note; Public
20 Law 103–449) is amended by striking “September 30,
21 2009” and inserting “September 30, 2015”.

22 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
23 109(a) of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley Na-
24 tional Heritage Corridor Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 461 note;

1 Public Law 103-449) is amended by striking
2 “\$10,000,000” and inserting “\$16,000,000”.

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