



Support Passage of H.R. 7936, the Cultural Resources Challenge Act of 2024
July 4, 2024

We, the undersigned organizations, urge Congress to pass the Cultural Resource Challenge Act of 2024 (H.R. 7936). This legislation, when enacted, will ensure cultural resource and historic preservation programs managed by the National Park Service (NPS) receive the funding they desperately need. As we approach America's 250th anniversary, this funding is essential for enhancing cultural resource management, addressing staffing shortages, and ensuring the resilience of our historic sites. This bill bolsters our ability to protect our heritage and the stories they tell for future generations.

All of our national parks interpret, manage, and preserve historic and cultural resources, the common touchstones of our shared national heritage. Unfortunately, long-standing budgetary shortfalls and inadequate staffing levels have degraded the ability of NPS to fulfill their mission of protecting our history and connecting our heritage to the public in ways that are accurate, inclusive, and inspiring.

H.R. 7936, the Cultural Resource Challenge Act of 2024, will provide \$250 million for the Cultural Resource Stewardship budget of NPS, enabling the agency to fill critical staff vacancies, reduce the backlog of cultural resource assessments, and update interpretation at cultural and historic resource sites to enhance the visitor experience.

This legislation will lift NPS cultural resource management and historic preservation in line with natural resource management. With our country's 250th anniversary quickly approaching on July 4, 2026, now is the time to act. We urge Congress to support the interpretation, management, and preservation of our history for today and for generations to come by passing H.R. 7936.

Sincerely,

Tariq Zahran
Director of Cultural Resources, Government Affairs
National Parks Conservation Association



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Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area
Alliance for the Great Lakes
Alliance of National Heritage Areas
Amache Alliance
American Battlefield Trust
American Society of Landscape Architects
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Asian & Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation
Badlands Conservation Alliance
Baltimore National Heritage Area
Baltimore National Heritage Area/Baltimore Heritage Area Authority
Big Bend Conservancy
Big Thicket Association
Black Environmental Leaders Association
Blackwell School Alliance
Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
Bronzeville-Black Metropolis National Heritage Area
C&O Canal Trust
Calumet Heritage Partnership
Calumet Heritage Partnership, Inc.
Canalway Partners, Ohio & Erie Canalway
Christopher Park Alliance
Coalition to Protect America's National Parks
co-creator of the Ithaca LGBTQ+ History Walking Tour, and executive director Student Equity, Inclusion and Belonging at Ithaca College
Colorado Preservation, Inc.
Continental Divide Trail Coalition
Eubie Blake Cultural Center
Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area
Freedom's Way National Heritage Area
Friends of Acadia
Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
Friends of Herring Run
Friends of Pu'u honua o Honaunau National Historical Park
Friends of Saguaro National Park
Friends of Weir Farm National Historical Park
Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership
Greater Remington Improvement Association
Hamilton-Lauraville Main Street, Inc.
Historic Boston Inc.
Historic Pullman Empowerment Organization
Historic Ships in Baltimore
Independence Historical Trust
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America
Irish Railroad Workers Museum
Kate Mullany National Historic Site
Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area
Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority
Locust Point Community Garden
Manassas Battlefield Trust
Maritime Washington National Heritage Area
MHA Tribal Park
Midtown Community Benefits District
Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area
Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area
MotorCities National Heritage Area Pnsp., Inc
Mountain Dreamers
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
MRI Studios Inc.
National Aviation Heritage Alliance
National Park Solutions, LLC
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Niagara Falls National Heritage Area
Northern Neck National Heritage Area
Northern Plains National Heritage Area
Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area
Ohio Environmental Council
Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism
Opera Baltimore
Park County Environmental Council
Partnership for the National Trails System
Pinchot Institute for Conservation
Poudre Heritage Alliance
Preservation Action
Preservation Maryland
Preservation Texas
Preservation Virginia
Prince William Conservation Alliance
Restore Oregon
Rock Creek Conservancy
Rocky Mountain Conservancy
Sand Creek Massacre Foundation
Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Areas
Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area
Save the Dunes
Shenandoah National Park Trust
South Park National Heritage Area
Southeast Tourism Society
Southern Maryland National Heritage Area
Susquehanna National Heritage Area
The 1882 Foundation
The Committee of The Presbyterian Church in The City of Baltimore
The Conservation Fund
The Downtown Sailing Center
The Last Green Valley, Inc.
The Peale, Baltimore's Community Museum
Twin Lights Historical Society
Upper Housatonic Valley NHA
VisitLEX
Voyageurs Conservancy
Waco Mammoth Foundation
West Volusia Tourism Advertising Authority
Wheeling Heritage
Yeager Community Consulting
Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area

NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

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