

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5168

To provide a process for the establishment of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area in the State of North Carolina, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 18, 2002

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To provide a process for the establishment of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area in the State of North Carolina, 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 “Blue Ridge National
5 Heritage Area Act of 2002”.

6 **SEC. 2. BLUE RIDGE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA, NORTH**
7 **CAROLINA.**

8 (a) REVIEW OF HERITAGE AREA STUDY.—Within 90
9 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
10 retary of the Interior shall complete a review of the study

1 entitled “Western North Carolina National Heritage Area
2 Feasibility Study and Plan”, which was prepared by
3 Handmade in America and Advantage West and covers
4 the study area specified in subsection (b), to determine
5 whether the study area—

6 (1) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and
7 cultural resources that—

8 (A) together represent distinctive aspects
9 of American heritage worthy of recognition,
10 conservation, interpretation, and continuing
11 use; and

12 (B) would be best managed through part-
13 nerships among public and private entities and
14 by combining diverse and sometime noncontig-
15 uous resources and active communities;

16 (2) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and
17 folklife that are a valuable part of the national story;

18 (3) provides outstanding opportunities to con-
19 serve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic features;

20 (4) provides outstanding recreational and edu-
21 cational opportunities;

22 (5) contains resources important to the identi-
23 fied theme or themes of the study area that retain
24 a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpre-
25 tation;

1 (6) includes residents, business interests, non-
2 profit organizations, and local and State govern-
3 ments that—

4 (A) support the designation of the study
5 area as a national heritage area;

6 (B) were involved in the preparation of the
7 study; and

8 (C) have developed a conceptual financial
9 plan that outlines the roles of all participants,
10 including the Federal Government; and

11 (7) has a potential management entity to work
12 in partnership with residents, business interests,
13 nonprofit organizations, and local and State govern-
14 ments to develop a national heritage area consistent
15 with continued local and State economic activity.

16 (b) COVERED STUDY AREA.—The study area re-
17 ferred to in this section consists of the counties of Cher-
18 okee, Clay, Graham, Swain, Macon, Jackson, Transyl-
19 vania, Haywood, Madison, Buncombe, Henderson,
20 Yancey, Mitchell, McDowell, Rutherford, Polk, Burke,
21 Avery, Caldwell, Watauga, Ashe, Wilkes, Alleghany,
22 Surry, and Yadkin, North Carolina.

23 (c) SUBMISSION OF RESULTS OF REVIEW.—Within
24 30 days after completing the review required by subsection
25 (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Re-

1 sources of the House of Representatives and the Com-
2 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate
3 a report containing the results of the review, including the
4 determination of the Secretary regarding whether the
5 study area satisfies the criteria specified in paragraphs (1)
6 through (7) of such subsection.

7 (d) DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.—
8 If, as a result of the review required by subsection (a),
9 the Secretary determines that the study area satisfies the
10 criteria specified in paragraphs (1) through (7) of such
11 subsection, the Secretary shall designate the study area
12 as the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area upon the com-
13 pletion of the 30-day period beginning on the date the Sec-
14 retary submits the report under subsection (c) to Con-
15 gress.

16 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
17 authorized to be appropriated under this section not more
18 than \$1,000,000 for any fiscal year to support the Blue
19 Ridge National Heritage Area, if designated pursuant to
20 subsection (d). Not more than a total of \$10,000,000 may
21 be appropriated for the heritage area under this section.

22 (f) 50 PERCENT MATCH.—Federal funding provided
23 under this section, after the designation of the Blue Ridge
24 National Heritage Area, may not exceed 50 percent of the

5

- 1 total cost of any assistance or grant provided to support
- 2 the heritage area.

○