

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1708

To establish the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 13, 2011

Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To establish the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park, 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 “John H. Chafee Black-  
5 stone River Valley National Historical Park Establish-  
6 ment Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

8 The purpose of this Act is to establish the John H.  
9 Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Historical  
10 Park—

1           (1) to help preserve, protect, and interpret the  
2 nationally significant resources in the Blackstone  
3 River Valley that exemplify the industrial heritage of  
4 the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley Na-  
5 tional Heritage Corridor for the benefit and inspira-  
6 tion of future generations;

7           (2) to support the preservation, protection, and  
8 interpretation of the urban, rural, and agricultural  
9 landscape features (including the Blackstone River  
10 and Canal) of the region that provide an overarching  
11 context for the industrial heritage of the National  
12 Heritage Corridor;

13           (3) to educate the public about—

14                 (A) the industrial history of the National  
15 Heritage Corridor; and

16                 (B) the significance of the National Herit-  
17 age Corridor to the past and present; and

18           (4) to support and enhance the network of part-  
19 ners who will continue to engage in the protection,  
20 improvement, management, and operation of key re-  
21 sources and facilities throughout the National Herit-  
22 age Corridor.

23 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

24           In this Act:

1           (1) MAP.—The term “map” means the map en-  
2           titled “John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley Na-  
3           tional Historical Park”, numbered NEFA962/  
4           111015, and dated October 2011.

5           (2) NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR.—The  
6           term “National Heritage Corridor” means the John  
7           H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Herit-  
8           age Corridor.

9           (3) PARK.—The term “Park” means the John  
10          H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Histor-  
11          ical Park established under section 4.

12          (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
13          the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-  
14          rector of the National Park Service.

15          (5) STATE.—The term “State” means each of  
16          the States of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

17 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF JOHN H. CHAFEE BLACKSTONE**  
18 **RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.**

19          (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the  
20          States a unit of the National Park System, to be known  
21          as the “John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National  
22          Historical Park”.

23          (b) BOUNDARIES.—The Park shall be comprised of  
24          the following sites and districts, as generally depicted on  
25          the map:

1           (1) Old Slater Mill National Historic Landmark  
2     District.

3           (2) Slatersville Historic District.

4           (3) Ashton Historic District.

5           (4) Whitinsville Historic District.

6           (5) Hopedale Village Historic District.

7           (6) Blackstone River and the tributaries of  
8     Blackstone River.

9           (7) Blackstone Canal.

10       (c) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be avail-  
11   able for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the  
12   National Park Service.

13       (d) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—The Secretary may ac-  
14   quire land or interests in land within the boundaries of  
15   the Park by—

16           (1) donation;

17           (2) purchase with donated or appropriated  
18   funds; or

19           (3) exchange.

20       (e) ADMINISTRATION.—

21           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall admin-  
22   ister the Park in accordance with—

23           (A) this Act;

24           (B) the laws generally applicable to units  
25   of the National Park System, including—

1 (i) the National Park Service Organic  
2 Act (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.); and

3 (ii) the Act of August 21, 1935 (16  
4 U.S.C. 461 et seq.); and

5 (C) any cooperative agreements entered  
6 into under subsection (f).

7 (2) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years  
9 after the date on which funds are made avail-  
10 able to carry out this Act, the Secretary shall  
11 prepare a general management plan for the  
12 Park—

13 (i) in consultation with the States;

14 and

15 (ii) in accordance with—

16 (I) any cooperative agreements  
17 entered into under subsection (f); and

18 (II) section 12(b) of the National  
19 Park System General Authorities Act  
20 (16 U.S.C. 1a-7(b)).

21 (B) REQUIREMENTS.—To the maximum  
22 extent practicable, the plan prepared under sub-  
23 paragraph (A) shall consider ways to use pre-  
24 existing or planned visitor facilities and rec-

1 reational opportunities developed in the Na-  
2 tional Heritage Corridor, including—

3 (i) the Blackstone Valley Visitor Cen-  
4 ter in Pawtucket, Rhode Island;

5 (ii) the Captain Wilbur Kelly House  
6 at Blackstone River State Park in Lincoln,  
7 Rhode Island;

8 (iii) the Museum of Work and Culture  
9 in Woonsocket, Rhode Island;

10 (iv) the River Bend Farm/Blackstone  
11 River and Canal Heritage State Park in  
12 Uxbridge, Massachusetts; and

13 (v) the Worcester Blackstone Visitor  
14 Center, located at the former Washburn &  
15 Moen wire mill facility in Worcester, Mas-  
16 sachusetts.

17 (f) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary  
18 may enter into cooperative agreements with the States, po-  
19 litical subdivisions of the States, nonprofit organizations  
20 (including the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage  
21 Corridor, Inc.), and private property owners to provide  
22 technical assistance and interpretation in the Park and the  
23 National Heritage Corridor.

24 (g) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—Subject to the avail-  
25 ability of appropriations, the Secretary may provide finan-

1 cial assistance, on a matching basis, for the conduct of  
2 resource protection activities in the National Heritage  
3 Corridor.

4 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5       There are authorized to be appropriated such sums  
6 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

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