

So, Mr. Speaker, this legislation speaks to process, fairness and judicial efficiency. It will not interfere with jury verdicts or compensation rates for litigators. I, therefore, urge my colleagues to join the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) and myself in a bipartisan effort to support the Multidistrict, Multiparty, Multiforum Jurisdiction Act of 1999.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the "Multidistrict, Multiparty, Multiforum Jurisdiction Act of 1999." I'd like to begin by expressing thanks to Chairman COBLE and Representative SENSENBRENNER of the Intellectual Property and Courts Subcommittee for their hard work and dedication to working out the concerns that we raised with respect to the original version of the bill in a truly bipartisan fashion.

I. SECTION 2—OVERTURNS LEXECON V. MILBERG WEISS,  
523 U.S. 26 (1998)

Section 2 of the bill overturns the recent Supreme Court decision of *Lexecon V. Milberg Weiss*, where the Supreme Court held that a transferee court (a district court assigned to hear pretrial matters by a multidistrict litigation panel in multidistrict litigation cases) must remand all cases back for trial to the districts in which they were originally filed, regardless of the views of the parties.

It is my understanding from the hearing that for some 30 year the transferee court often retained jurisdiction over all of the suits by invoking a venue provision of Title 28, allowing a district court to transfer a civil action to any other district where it may have been brought—in effect, the transferee court simply transferred all of the cases to itself. The Judicial Conference testified that this process has worked well, and as a matter of judicial expedience, I support overturning the *Lexecon* decision.

There was a concern raised at the Subcommittee hearing, however, that Section 2, as originally drafted, would have gone far beyond simply permitting a multidistrict litigation transferee court to conduct a liability trial, and instead, would have allowed the court to also determine compensatory and punitive damages. The concern here is that trying the case in the transferee forum could be extremely inconvenient for plaintiffs who would need to testify at the damages phase of the trial.

As a result of discussions between the minority and majority, Representative BERMAN successfully offered a bipartisan amendment addressing this concern at the Full Committee markup. Pursuant to this amendment, Section 2 now creates a presumption that the trial of compensatory damages will be remanded to the original district court.

II. SECTION 3—MINIMAL DIVERSITY FOR SINGLE  
ACCIDENTS INVOLVING 25 PEOPLE

Section 3 of the bill expands federal court jurisdiction for single accidents involving at least 25 people having damages in excess of \$75,000 per claim and establishes new federal procedures in these narrowly defined cases for selection of venue, service of process, issuance of subpoenas and choice of law. It is my understanding here that mass tort injuries that involve the same injury over and over again such as asbestos and breast implants, etc., would be excluded. And that the types of

cases that would be included would be plane, train, bus, boat accidents, environment spills, etc.—many of which may already be brought in federal court.

While I traditionally oppose having federal courts decide state tort issues, and disfavor the expansion of the jurisdiction of the already-overloaded district courts, unlike the broader class action bill (H.R. 1875), this bill would only expand federal court jurisdiction in a much narrower class of actions, with the objective of judicial expedience.

Thus, I support this Section with the understanding that it would only apply to a very narrowly defined category of cases and does not in any way serve as a precedent for broader expansion of diversity jurisdiction.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2112, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1430

LACKAWANNA VALLEY NATIONAL  
HERITAGE AREA ACT OF 1999

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 940) to establish the Lackawanna Heritage Valley American Heritage Area, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 940

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

*This Act may be cited as the "Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area Act of 1999".*

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

(a) *FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:*

(1) *The industrial and cultural heritage of northeastern Pennsylvania inclusive of Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wayne, and Susquehanna counties, related directly to anthracite and anthracite-related industries, is nationally significant, as documented in the United States Department of the Interior-National Parks Service, National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Documentation submittal of the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (1996).*

(2) *These industries include anthracite mining, ironmaking, textiles, and rail transportation.*

(3) *The industrial and cultural heritage of the anthracite and related industries in this region includes the social history and living cultural traditions of the people of the region.*

(4) *The labor movement of the region played a significant role in the development of the Nation including the formation of many key unions*

*such as the United Mine Workers of America, and crucial struggles to improve wages and working conditions, such as the 1900 and 1902 anthracite strikes.*

(5) *The Department of the Interior is responsible for protecting the Nation's cultural and historic resources, and there are significant examples of these resources within this 4-county region to merit the involvement of the Federal Government to develop programs and projects, in cooperation with the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and other local and governmental bodies, to adequately conserve, protect, and interpret this heritage for future generations, while providing opportunities for education and revitalization.*

(6) *The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority would be an appropriate management entity for a Heritage Area established in the region.*

(b) *PURPOSE.—The objectives of the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area are as follows:*

(1) *To foster a close working relationship with all levels of government, the private sector, and the local communities in the anthracite coal region of northeastern Pennsylvania and empower the communities to conserve their heritage while continuing to pursue economic opportunities.*

(2) *To conserve, interpret, and develop the historical, cultural, natural, and recreational resources related to the industrial and cultural heritage of the 4-county region of northeastern Pennsylvania.*

**SEC. 3. LACKAWANNA VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.**

(a) *ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area (in this Act referred to as the "Heritage Area").*

(b) *BOUNDARIES.—The Heritage Area shall be comprised of all or parts of the counties of Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wayne, and Susquehanna in Pennsylvania, determined pursuant to the compact under section 4.*

(c) *MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—The management entity for the Heritage Area shall be the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority.*

**SEC. 4. COMPACT.**

*To carry out the purposes of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior (in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall enter into a compact with the management entity. The compact shall include information relating to the objectives and management of the area, including each of the following:*

(1) *A delineation of the boundaries of the Heritage Area.*

(2) *A discussion of the goals and objectives of the Heritage Area, including an explanation of the proposed approach to conservation and interpretation and a general outline of the protection measures committed to by the partners.*

**SEC. 5. AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES OF MANAGEMENT ENTITY.**

(a) *AUTHORITIES OF THE MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—The management entity may, for purposes of preparing and implementing the management plan developed under subsection (b), use funds made available through this Act for the following:*

(1) *To make grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements with States and their political subdivisions, private organizations, or any person.*

(2) *To hire and compensate staff.*

(3) *To enter into contracts for goods and services.*

(b) *MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The management entity shall develop a management plan for the Heritage Area that presents recommendations for the Heritage Area's conservation, funding, management, and development. Such plan shall take into consideration existing State, county,*

and local plans and involve residents, public agencies, and private organizations working in the Heritage Area. It shall include recommendations for actions to be undertaken by units of government and private organizations to protect the resources of the Heritage Area. It shall specify the existing and potential sources of funding to protect, manage, and develop the Heritage Area. Such plan shall include, as appropriate, the following:

(1) An inventory of the resources contained in the Heritage Area, including a list of any property in the Heritage Area that is related to the themes of the Heritage Area and that should be preserved, restored, managed, developed, or maintained because of its natural, cultural, historic, recreational, or scenic significance.

(2) A recommendation of policies for resource management which considers and details application of appropriate land and water management techniques, including, but not limited to, the development of intergovernmental cooperative agreements to protect the Heritage Area's historical, cultural, recreational, and natural resources in a manner consistent with supporting appropriate and compatible economic viability.

(3) A program for implementation of the management plan by the management entity, including plans for restoration and construction, and specific commitments of the identified partners for the first 5 years of operation.

(4) An analysis of ways in which local, State, and Federal programs may best be coordinated to promote the purposes of this Act.

(5) An interpretation plan for the Heritage Area.

The management entity shall submit the management plan to the Secretary for approval within 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act. If a management plan is not submitted to the Secretary as required within the specified time, the Heritage Area shall no longer qualify for Federal funding.

(c) **DUTIES OF MANAGEMENT ENTITY.**—The management entity shall—

(1) give priority to implementing actions set forth in the compact and management plan, including steps to assist units of government, regional planning organizations, and nonprofit organizations in preserving the Heritage Area;

(2) assist units of government, regional planning organizations, and nonprofit organizations in establishing and maintaining interpretive exhibits in the Heritage Area; assist units of government, regional planning organizations, and nonprofit organizations in developing recreational resources in the Heritage Area;

(3) assist units of government, regional planning organizations, and nonprofit organizations in increasing public awareness of and appreciation for the natural, historical, and architectural resources and sites in the Heritage Area; assist units of government, regional planning organizations and nonprofit organizations in the restoration of any historic building relating to the themes of the Heritage Area;

(4) encourage economic viability in the Heritage Area consistent with the goals of the plan; encourage local governments to adopt land use policies consistent with the management of the Heritage Area and the goals of the plan;

(5) assist units of government, regional planning organizations, and nonprofit organizations to ensure that clear, consistent, and environmentally appropriate signs identifying access points and sites of interest are put in place throughout the Heritage Area;

(6) consider the interests of diverse governmental, business, and nonprofit groups within the Heritage Area;

(7) conduct public meetings at least quarterly regarding the implementation of the management plan; and

(8) for any year in which Federal funds have been received under this Act, make available for audit all records pertaining to the expenditure of such funds and any matching funds, and require, for all agreements authorizing expenditure of Federal funds by other organizations, that the receiving organizations make available for audit all records pertaining to the expenditure of such funds.

(d) **PROHIBITION ON THE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY.**—The management entity may not use Federal funds received under this Act to acquire real property or an interest in real property. Nothing in this Act shall preclude any management entity from using Federal funds from other sources for their permitted purposes.

(e) **SPENDING FOR NON-FEDERALLY OWNED PROPERTY.**—The management entity may spend Federal funds directly on non-federally owned property to further the purposes of this Act, especially in assisting units of government in appropriate treatment of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

#### **SEC. 6. DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

(a) **TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary may, upon request of the management entity, provide technical and financial assistance to the management entity to develop and implement the management plan. In assisting the management entity, the Secretary shall give priority to actions that in general assist in—

(1) conserving the significant natural, historic, and cultural resources which support its themes; and

(2) providing educational, interpretive, and recreational opportunities consistent with its resources and associated values.

(b) **APPROVAL AND DISAPPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT PLANS.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Governor of Pennsylvania, shall approve or disapprove a management plan submitted under this Act not later than 90 days after receiving such management plan.

(c) **ACTION FOLLOWING DISAPPROVAL.**—If the Secretary disapproves a submitted management plan, the Secretary shall advise the management entity in writing of the reasons therefore and shall make recommendations for revisions in the plan. The Secretary shall approve or disapprove a proposed revision within 90 days after the date it is submitted.

(d) **APPROVING AMENDMENTS.**—The Secretary shall review substantial amendments to the management plan for the Heritage Area. Funds appropriated pursuant to this Act may not be expended to implement the changes made by such amendments until the Secretary approves the amendments.

#### **SEC. 7. ADDITIONAL ANTHRACITE COAL REGION DESIGNATION.**

(a) **DESIGNATION.**—Upon publication by the Secretary in the Federal Register of notice that the Secretary has signed a compact (as provided for in subsection (b)) there is hereby designated the Schuylkill River National Heritage Area.

(b) **COMPACT.**—The compact submitted under this section with respect to the Schuylkill River National Heritage Area shall consist of an agreement between the Secretary and the Schuylkill River Greenway Association (who shall serve as the management entity for the area). Such agreement shall define the area (including a delineation of the boundaries), describe anticipated programs for the area, and include information relating to the objectives and management of the area. Such information shall include, but not be limited to, an explanation of the proposed approach to the conservation and interpretation of the area and a general outline of the protection measures committed to by the partners.

(c) **AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES.**—The authorities and duties of the management entity and other Federal agencies for the Schuylkill River National Heritage Area shall be the same as provided for by sections 5 and 6 of this Act, except that for such purposes any reference in such sections to the "Heritage Area" shall be deemed to be a reference to the Schuylkill River National Heritage Area and any reference to the "management entity" shall be deemed a reference to the Schuylkill River Greenway Association.

#### **SEC. 8. CULTURE AND HERITAGE OF ANTHRACITE COAL REGION.**

All authorized existing and future heritage area management entities in the Anthracite Coal Region in Pennsylvania are authorized and directed to coordinate with one another in the management of such areas. Each such management entity is authorized to use funds appropriated for such heritage areas for the purposes of this section.

#### **SEC. 9. SUNSET.**

The Secretary may not make any grant or provide any assistance under this Act after September 30, 2012.

#### **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be appropriated under this Act not more than \$1,000,000 for any fiscal year for each heritage area designated by this Act. Not more than a total of \$10,000,000 may be appropriated for each heritage area under this Act.

(b) **50 PERCENT MATCH.**—Federal funding provided under this Act, after the designation of each heritage area, may not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of any assistance or grant provided or authorized under this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD).

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased that we are considering H.R. 940, the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area Act, a similar version which was passed by the House in the last Congress.

There are many excellent reasons to support the designation of this historic heritage area. The Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area Act would ensure the conservation of northeastern Pennsylvania's significant natural, historic and cultural resources. The Lackawanna Valley was the first heritage area designated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is recognized as nationally significant through its documentation into the U.S. Department of Interior's Register of Historic Places.

In the last decade, for every dollar contributed by the National Park Service to the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, the "management entity" cited in my bill, has leveraged \$10 in other federal, State, local and private sector funds to finance preservation activities. The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority would continue to foster these important relationships with all levels of Government, the private sector, and local communities.

The Lackawanna Valley encompasses the counties of Lackawanna, Wayne, Susquehanna, and Luzerne in northeastern Pennsylvania. The Valley tells the story of the development of anthracite coal, one of North America's greatest natural resources. From early in the 19th century, Pennsylvania's coal provided an extraordinary source of energy which fueled America's economic growth for over 100 years. At the center of the world's most productive anthracite field, the Lackawanna Valley witnessed the inception, spectacular growth, and eventual deterioration of an industry which led our country to unparalleled prosperity.

The landscape of the Valley conveys the story of the industrial revolution most clearly. Miles of track and hundreds of industrial sites and abandoned mines are daily reminders of the importance of the regent industry. Heritage sites like Pennsylvania's Anthracite Heritage Museum, the Scranton Iron Furnace Historic Site, the Lackawanna County Coal Mine, and the Steamtown National Historic Site help to commemorate the hardships of the industrial revolution which has led us to our current prosperity. These sites provide the framework for the historic preservation which will be cemented by my proposed legislation.

A hearing was held on June 10 in the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands in which testimony was heard from the National Park Service, private citizens, and elected officials in strong support of the legislation. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 940 was subsequently amended in the full Committee on Resources to direct the Secretary of the Interior to designate the Schuylkill River Corridor as a national heritage area. This addition to the bill will allow the history and culture of the major anthracite coal regions in Pennsylvania to be preserved for future generations. The amended bill passed by voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), the chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the chairman of the full Committee on Resources, for their support and leadership on this important legislation. H.R. 940 is a bipartisan bill which deserves our support.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I do want to commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his sponsorship of this piece of legislation.

H.R. 940, as introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD), my colleague of the Committee on Resources, would have established the Lackawanna Valley Heritage Area in northeastern Pennsylvania.

The Lackawanna Valley covers the four counties of Lackawanna, Luzerne,

Wayne, and Susquehanna Counties. In 1991, local citizens and governments established the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority to foster a partnership among State and local governments, business and civic organizations in the promotion of the Valley's historic, cultural, natural and economic resources.

Unlike other proposed heritage areas, the Lackawanna Valley has received significant federal funding prior to its establishment. Since 1989, a total of \$3.147 million in the National Park Service funds has been earmarked in appropriations bills for a variety of unauthorized purposes.

In hearings on H.R. 940 before the Committee on Resources, the National Park Service testified in general support of the legislation, but did note several concerns with the bill's language, especially in regards to the lending authority and the requirement for certain studies. The bill was amended by the committee to address those concerns.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, the Committee on Resources adopted an amendment that provides for the designation of an additional heritage area so that the preservation and interpretation of the resources of the anthracite coal region will also include those resources found in the southern anthracite coal fields of the Schuylkill River Valley located in the district of our colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN).

The bill already anticipated such cooperative heritage efforts by directing that the various management entities to coordinate with one another in the management of the heritage of the anthracite coal region in Pennsylvania. The changes made by the amendment will provide more complete coverage of the heritage of this entire coal region.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 940, as amended, is a good piece of legislation for heritage preservation, and I do urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I have no more requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN).

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 940 this afternoon. I would like to thank the chairmen of the committee and the subcommittee for bringing this legislation to the floor, and I thank the ranking members of the committee and subcommittee for their assistance, as well as the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD), my good friend, for the way that he cooperated and extended his hand so that we were able to include the entire anthracite coal field in this

heritage corridor, and I do truly appreciate the cooperation of the gentleman.

The link between the Schuylkill Heritage Corridor and the Lackawanna Heritage Corridor, as the gentleman mentioned, is anthracite coal, the anthracite coal that fueled the industrial revolution in this country, first by way of the Schuylkill Canal and then by way of the railroads. We should all be proud of that heritage, and I am certain that our managing entities are going to work very closely together so that we can highlight that proud history of anthracite coal.

Along with the coal fields in Pennsylvania came the first real effort for organized labor to set foot in the United States. I am very pleased to say that the work of the association started in Schuylkill County and was the forerunner to the United Mine Workers of America, where men fought long and hard for equitable pay and for working privileges and working rights that they were not able to have in the days when anthracite coal was first begun to be mined in Pennsylvania.

Through their efforts and through their long and hard work, they were able to have decent salaries and decent wages and decent working conditions in the anthracite fields right now. We should continue to honor the heritage of what was done in organized labor.

Mr. Speaker, there is much more to be told about the Schuylkill River Heritage. As we leave Schuylkill County and move down the Schuylkill River, we have a proud heritage in agriculture, a proud heritage in textiles, and in iron ore. All of these industries have a great tradition, and we all have great pride in what was accomplished right down the Schuylkill River as we get to Valley Forge and to Philadelphia. It was our link to get our goods to the marketplace, and we should make every effort possible to be appreciative as to what was done, but also try to highlight through Heritage Corridor what was done in the past and continue to move for economic development.

I am absolutely positive that when this Schuylkill River Heritage Corridor gets into a working agreement and hits the ground running, that it is going to be able to model itself after the Lackawanna Corridor, as my friend mentioned, where they were able to leverage with federal money, with private money, and State money and county money to do so much good in the Lackawanna Valley, and I am hoping we are going to use that example as we do in the Schuylkill River Corridor.

So I would just like to take this opportunity to say that this is a good piece of legislation. It certainly has been done in a very bipartisan manner. I think we all cooperated very well. Again, I would like to extend my gratification for that effort that was made to assist in making sure that anthracite coal and all of the treasures of the

Schuylkill River can have a heritage corridor that we can work on.

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I certainly want to thank both gentlemen from Pennsylvania for their introduction of this piece of legislation. I note with interest the mentioning of Susquehanna County as part of a very strong cultural heritage as part of our American history. In my little reading of history, I recall that the Susquehanna River has a very profound historical event that transpired as far as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is concerned, and I wanted to note that as a matter of record. I do want to thank my good friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN) for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 940, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ACT

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 658) to establish the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in the State of New York as an affiliated area of the National Park System, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 658

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the "Thomas Cole National Historic Site Act".

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

Sec. 3. Findings and purposes.

Sec. 4. Establishment of Thomas Cole National Historic Site.

Sec. 5. Retention of ownership and management of historic site by Greene County Historical Society.

Sec. 6. Administration of historic site.

Sec. 7. Authorization of appropriations.

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act:

(1) The term "historic site" means the Thomas Cole National Historic Site established by section 4 of this Act.

(2) The term "Hudson River artists" means artists who were associated with the Hudson River school of landscape painting.

(3) The term "plan" means the general management plan developed pursuant to section 6(d).

(4) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) The term "Society" means the Greene County Historical Society of Greene County, New York, which owns the Thomas Cole home, studio, and other property comprising the historic site.

#### SEC. 3. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) *FINDINGS.*—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Hudson River school of landscape painting was inspired by Thomas Cole and was characterized by a group of 19th century landscape artists who recorded and celebrated the landscape and wilderness of America, particularly in the Hudson River Valley region in the State of New York.

(2) Thomas Cole is recognized as America's most prominent landscape and allegorical painter of the mid-19th century.

(3) Located in Greene County, New York, the Thomas Cole House, also known as Thomas Cole's Cedar Grove, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been designated as a National Historic Landmark.

(4) Within a 15 mile radius of the Thomas Cole House, an area that forms a key part of the rich cultural and natural heritage of the Hudson River Valley region, significant landscapes and scenes painted by Thomas Cole and other Hudson River artists, such as Frederic Church, survive intact.

(5) The State of New York has established the Hudson River Valley Greenway to promote the preservation, public use, and enjoyment of the natural and cultural resources of the Hudson River Valley region.

(6) Establishment of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site will provide opportunities for the illustration and interpretation of cultural themes of the heritage of the United States and unique opportunities for education, public use, and enjoyment.

(b) *PURPOSES.*—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to preserve and interpret the home and studio of Thomas Cole for the benefit, inspiration, and education of the people of the United States;

(2) to help maintain the integrity of the setting in the Hudson River Valley region that inspired artistic expression;

(3) to coordinate the interpretive, preservation, and recreational efforts of Federal, State, and other entities in the Hudson Valley region in order to enhance opportunities for education, public use, and enjoyment; and

(4) to broaden understanding of the Hudson River Valley region and its role in American history and culture.

#### SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.

(a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—There is established, as an affiliated area of the National Park System, the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in the State of New York.

(b) *DESCRIPTION.*—The historic site shall consist of the home and studio of Thomas Cole, comprising approximately 3.4 acres, located at 218 Spring Street, in the village of Catskill, New York, as generally depicted on the boundary map numbered TCH/80002, and dated March 1992.

#### SEC. 5. RETENTION OF OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF HISTORIC SITE BY GREENE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The Greene County Historical Society of Greene County, New York, shall continue to

own, administer, manage, and operate the historic site.

#### SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATION OF HISTORIC SITE.

(a) *APPLICABILITY OF NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM LAWS.*—The historic site shall be administered in a manner consistent with this Act and all laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including the Act of August 25, 1916 (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.; commonly known as the National Park Service Organic Act), and the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.; commonly known as the Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act).

(b) *COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.*—

(1) *ASSISTANCE TO SOCIETY.*—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the Society to preserve the Thomas Cole House and other structures in the historic site and to assist with education programs and research and interpretation of the Thomas Cole House and associated landscapes.

(2) *OTHER ASSISTANCE.*—To further the purposes of this Act, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the State of New York, the Society, the Thomas Cole Foundation, and other public and private entities to facilitate public understanding and enjoyment of the lives and works of the Hudson River artists through the provision of assistance to develop, present, and fund art exhibits, resident artist programs, and other appropriate activities related to the preservation, interpretation, and use of the historic site.

(c) *ARTIFACTS AND PROPERTY.*—The Secretary may acquire personal property associated with, and appropriate for, the interpretation of the historic site.

(d) *GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.*—Within two complete fiscal years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a general management plan for the historic site with the cooperation of the Society. Upon the completion of the plan, the Secretary shall provide a copy of the plan to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives. The plan shall include recommendations for regional wayside exhibits, to be carried out through cooperative agreements with the State of New York and other public and private entities. The plan shall be prepared in accordance with section 12(b) of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-1 et seq.; commonly known as the National Park System General Authorities Act).

#### SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD).

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 658 would establish the Thomas Cole Historic Site in the State of New York as an affiliated area of the National Park System. This bill is the result of the dedication of the gentleman from New York (Mr. SWEENEY) and retired Congressman Jerry Solomon, also from New York, who worked hard to protect this historic site. The Thomas Cole House is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been