

Statement on Signing the National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 *October 12, 2006*

Today, I have signed into law S. 203, the “National Heritage Areas Act of 2006.” The Act establishes national heritage areas and reduces the royalty rate on certain minerals.

A number of provisions of the Act purport to give to management entities or local coordinating entities, composed of individuals who are not officers of the United States appointed in accordance with the Appointments Clause of the Constitution, significant governmental authority, such as authority to make grants from Federal appropriated funds to implement management plans for heritage areas. As is consistent with the Appointments Clause and with requirements in the Act concerning approval by the Secretary of the Interior

of the management plans, the executive branch shall construe the provisions to require exercise by the Secretary of the Interior of the significant governmental authority given by the provisions, specifically including the exercise by the Secretary of final authority over any disbursement of Federal appropriated funds by a management entity or local coordinating entity.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
October 12, 2006.

NOTE: This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 13. S. 203, approved October 12, was assigned Public Law No. 109–338.

Remarks on Signing the Security and Accountability For Every Port Act of 2006 *October 13, 2006*

Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you, and welcome. I’m pleased to have you here as I sign a bill that will help protect the American people and our ports. The SAFE Port Act will make this Nation more prepared, more prosperous, and more secure.

I want to thank the Congress for its good work. I’m pleased that key Members of the Senate and the House have joined me here today, and I want to thank you for being here. I first want to thank the Secretary of Homeland Security, Michael Chertoff, for his service to the country. I appreciate that Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist has joined us. I’m pleased that Senator Susan Collins, who is the chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, has joined us. She is one

of the sponsors of the bill, as is Peter King, who’s the chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee. These two Members are strong, strong chairmen, and they’re doing a fine job to help us protect this country. I appreciate very much Senator Bob Bennett and Senator Patty Murray and Senator Norm Coleman for joining us, as well as Congressman Dan Lungren.

The most solemn responsibility of the Federal Government is to protect the American people. And since September the 11th, the administration and the Congress have worked together, and we’ve led an unprecedented effort to safeguard our homeland. In other words, we learned the lessons of that attack. We’ve more than tripled spending on homeland security. We’ve