

5.14.66

Statement of Senator Robert C. Byrd
A Bill to Establish the Potomac Heritage Trail

Mr. Chairman, *First I wish to Thank you and the other members of the committee for this hearing today on 5.14.66 which would*

~~Mr. President, I send to the desk a bill to establish~~
the Potomac Heritage Trail as a national scenic trail that would link superb natural and historical characteristics of four states and the District of Columbia.

Sixteen million people reside within 100 miles of this proposed route, and the millions of tourists who visit the Nation's capital each year would have easy access to this trail. The bill ~~I am proposing~~ has the support of the Secretary of the Interior and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, which prepared the report on the 874-mile Potomac Heritage

Trail, *and I am informed that this information has been submitted to this committee.*

The trail would follow the Potomac River from its mountain origins amid rugged, rocky slopes in West Virginia and the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania to Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. There the trail would divide into two stretches. One stretch would parallel the Potomac River on the Virginia shore and extend to Smith Point on Chesapeake Bay. The other stretch would parallel the river on the Maryland shore, pass through the Nation's Capitol in the District of Columbia, and continue to Point Lookout, Maryland, on the Chesapeake Bay. Famous battlefields, fortifications, historic homes, and the trail would be an excellent

service employees would...
lasting benefits...

great national monuments in Washington, D.C., would be linked to such scenic areas as West Virginia's Spruce Knob-- Seneca Rocks and the Dolly Sods of Monongahela National Forest. Part of the trail would be the 180-mile towpath of the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Canal National Historical Park.

Under ^{the authorization contained in} my ~~proposed~~ bill, the Department of the Interior would be responsible for overall trail administration. Comprehensive guidelines for planning, design, and management of the trail would be prepared by the Secretary of the Interior within three years of designation, and an advisory council would be formed to assist in trail development.

I wish to call ~~the~~ ~~your~~ attention to Mr. President, I have included the following language ^{included} in Section (3) of my proposed bill.

" ... it is the sense of the Congress that the Secretary, with respect to his authority to provide certain facilities within the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, should immediately utilize that authority to construct campsites, shelters, and related public use facilities within those parts of such trail which are located within areas of high unemployment."

I included this language because ~~the~~, I believe that, within those counties in states which have high unemployment, the creation of jobs to construct shelters and other needed components of this trail would be an excellent way in which to utilize public service employment funds and it would provide permanent and lasting benefits for the citizens who will use this trail.

Again, I wish to thank you for scheduling these
I urge my colleagues on the Senate Interior Committee

to schedule prompt hearings on this bill and to favorably
report it to the Senate.

I urge you that you

the Potomac Heritage Trail as a national
would link superb natural and historical
of four states and the District of Columbia
Sixteen million people who will
this proposed route, and the
the Nation's capital each year would have
this trail. The bill is prepared by
Secretary of the Interior and the Bureau
which prepared the report on the
Trail.

The trail would follow the Potomac
mountain ridges and rugged rocky
and the Laurel Highlands of
West Virginia. The trail would
One stretch would parallel the
shore and extend to Smith
other stretch would parallel the river on
pass through the Nation's capital in the
and continue to Washington, D.C.
Frederick battlefields, and historic