



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

JAN 23 2020

The Honorable Joe Manchin III
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Manchin:

Please find transmitted the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor (Erie Canalway) Evaluation Findings. In 2000, Congress designated the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor in Public Law 106-554 to provide for and assist in the preservation, promotion, maintenance, and interpretation of the historical, natural, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources of the Erie Canalway to reflect its national significance. The coordinating entity is the federally appointed Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission (Commission) and its non-profit partner the Erie Canalway Heritage Fund, a 501(c)3 organization in Albany, New York. The Commission provides a framework to assist the State of New York and its units of local government (including 23 counties and 230 municipalities) along the 524 navigable miles of the Erie Canalway, in the development of integrated cultural, historical, recreational, economic, and community development.

The Erie Canalway was evaluated in accordance with Section 3052 of Public Law 113-291. The NPS used independent consultants to review the progress and status of the area.

The evaluation found that the Erie Canalway addresses the legislated mandate to preserve and promote the Erie Canalway while fostering community development in a manner that promotes partnerships among its many stakeholders, and celebrates and enhances the Corridor's national significance consistent with their management plan, through the Federal resources provided. The Commission successfully met its Federal funding match requirements from 2002 to 2017, with \$23.7 million in matching funds from state, local, private foundations, and in-kind contributions to \$9.74 million in NPS Heritage Partnership Program dollars. The Commission was also supported by \$4.5 million in direct NPS staff support and competitively obtained NPS funds.

The evaluation found that the Erie Canalway has the governance in place and staff to operate a sustainable national heritage area organization. The NPS will continue to work in partnership with the Erie Canalway in accordance with existing laws.

A similar letter is being sent to the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate; the Honorable Raúl Grijalva, Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, U.S. House of Representatives; and the Honorable Rob Bishop, Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources, U.S. House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Vela". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being more prominent than the last name "Vela".

David Vela
Deputy Director, Operations
Exercising the Authority of the Director

Enclosure

cc: Senator Charles Schumer
Senator Kristen E. Gillibrand
Representative Anthony Brindisi
Representative Antonio Delgado
Representative Brian Higgins
Representative John Katko
Representative Joseph D. Morelle
Representative Tom Reed
Representative Elise Stefanik
Representative Paul D. Tonko



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The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva:

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