

develop a more diversified economy, a condition that brings us to the present day.

The region into which we wish to expand this Heritage Corridor is clearly both culturally and environmentally part of "the Last Green Valley." The expansion area shares a history, a desire to protect resources and a view to economic revitalization. The mill towns and farmland offer residents and visitors a special view into the American experience and allow them to explore New England's agrarian and industrial past.

Environmental protection is one of the most important tasks facing the American people as we go forth into the new millennium. As such, the goal of this legislation is to develop and implement natural, cultural, historic, scenic, recreational, land and other resource management programs. The purpose is to retain and enhance the significant features of lands, water, structures, and history of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley. The National Heritage Corridor designation allows local governments and grassroots organizations to carry out their visions for a healthier, more sustainable society. As always, the delicate balance between environmental protection and economic growth is at the heart of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor.

Since the authorization of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor in 1994, the State of Connecticut, via the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc., has worked efficiently under a constrained budget by combining the financial resources of the public and private sectors. As a result, the economic aspect of the Corridor has been as successful as the environmental protection programs. The Corridor Commission has been able to match federal funds at a ratio of 12:1. The Commission and its partners have revitalized Industrial Revolution era mills, enhanced greenways and waterways, and have increased preservation of open space and wildlife habitats, resulting in an increase in tourism. The proximity of the Corridor to the major metropolitan areas of Springfield, Worcester, Boston, Hartford, Providence, and New York City serves as further evidence that this expansion is an economically viable venture.

In order to ensure that the projects selected reflect the needs and desires of the states, the Corridor Commission Board of Directors will include voting members from the offices of the Governors of Massachusetts and Connecticut. The Commission will also be linked to, and under the guidance of, the Secretary of the Interior via a compact.

Mr. Speaker, the most important people involved in the environmental and historical preservation process are the locals. These are the people involved in the actual work that our legislation authorizes. I would like my colleagues to understand that the local governments and local business along the Corridor are in overwhelming support of this legislation. I have received numerous calls from businessmen and women looking for ways to get involved and the Boards of Selectmen of the affected towns have been pressing the issue in their town halls. The people have spoken out and they are in favor of the Corridor Expansion.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that we in Massachusetts are not stepping on the toes of our Connecticut neighbors. The members of

the Massachusetts State Heritage Corridor Commission have been working with their successful counterparts from Connecticut for a long time now. The two groups have come to an understanding and are looking forward to working together. In order for the Corridor Expansion to be a success, the experience of those on the Connecticut side must be utilized.

Mr. Speaker, once again I would like to thank Mr. GEJDENSON for all of his work, and I would like to thank the members of the Corridor Commission who have been the driving force behind this legislation.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). 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. 1619, 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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the six bills just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY FRIENDLY TELEVISION PROGRAMMING

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 184) expressing the sense of Congress regarding the importance of "family friendly" programming on television.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 184

Whereas American children and adolescents spend between 22 and 28 hours per week viewing television;

Whereas American homes have an average of 2.75 television sets, and 87 percent of homes with children have more than one television set;

Whereas there is a need to increase the availability programs suitable for the entire family during prime time viewing hours;

Whereas surveys of television content demonstrate that many programs contain substantial sexual or violent content;

Whereas although parents are ultimately responsible for appropriately supervising their children's television viewing, it is also important to provide positive, "family friendly" programming that is suitable for parents and children to watch together;

Whereas efforts should be made by television networks, studios, and the production community to produce more quality family

friendly programs and to air them during times when parents and children are likely to be viewing together;

Whereas members of the Family Friendly Programming Forum are concerned about the availability of family friendly television programs during prime time viewing hours; and

Whereas Congress encourages activities by the Forum and other entities designed to promote family friendly programming, including—

(1) participating in meetings with leadership of major television networks, studios, and production companies to express concerns;

(2) expressing the importance of family friendly programming at industry conferences, meetings, and forums;

(3) honoring outstanding family friendly television programs with a new tribute, the Family Program Awards, to be held annually in Los Angeles, California;

(4) establishing a development fund to finance family friendly scripts; and

(5) underwriting scholarships at television studies departments at institutions of higher education to encourage student interest in family friendly programming; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes and honors the efforts of the Family Friendly Programming Forum and other entities supporting family friendly programming;

(2) supports efforts to encourage television networks, studios, and the production community to produce more quality family friendly programs;

(3) supports the proposed Family Friendly Programming Awards, development fund, and scholarships, all of which are designed to encourage, recognize, and celebrate creative excellence in, and commitment to, family friendly programming; and

(4) encourages the media and American advertisers to further a family friendly television environment within which appropriate advertisements can accompany the programming.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and insert extraneous material in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us today is also a statement on behalf of the Members of this body that we expect better television programming than perhaps what is being offered today to our children and our families to survive the ratings battle. The broadcast networks do spend a considerable amount of time trying to develop sound, family-friendly programming that consumers will watch. Unfortunately, all too often this type of