

LANE EVANS
17TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEES:
HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
February 26, 1985

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The Honorable John F. Seiberling
Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands
and National Parks
HOUSE INTERIOR & INSULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
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Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As Members of the Illinois Delegation, we are writing to urge your prompt and favorable consideration of legislation to designate the Hennepin Canal as a "National Heritage Corridor." As you know, the designation "National Heritage Corridor" was first used for the Illinois and Michigan Canal in legislation that was passed in the 98th Congress.


In 1984, Congressman Lane Evans of the 17th Congressional District established a Citizens' Task Force on the Hennepin Canal to recommend how the Canal, Illinois' longest man-made waterway, could be developed to realize its considerable recreational and historical potential for the people of Illinois. The Task Force, made up of farmers, conservationists, sportsmen, environmentalists, academics, and state officials, discussed canal rehabilitation strategies and heard presentations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Illinois Department of Conservation.

In fulfilling the recommendations in the Task Force's final report, this legislation would establish a "National Heritage Corridor" designation and would provide assistance to the State of Illinois in developing this Corridor. This bill involves only a minimal outlay to meet the obligation in the original agreements which turned the Canal over to the State of Illinois. There are no disputes about title to the land involved (as it belongs wholly to the State), and there are no commissions needed.

Joining with the I & M Canal, the Hennepin Canal would create a "National Heritage Corridor" across the entire state of Illinois from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River. Therefore, we urge your Subcommittee to recommend this measure for action by the full House.

Thank you for your help and consideration.

Sincerely,



Edward Madigan

John Miller

Byron Martin

Temple Bruce

~~Tom Gray~~

Richard Dobbin

W. J. Powell

Gus Savage

Carlton Collier

Henry J. Hyde

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George O'Brien

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