

NEWS

From the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Benefits from Recent DC Budget Bill

EASTON (January 20, 2016) – On December 18, 2015, Congress passed the 2016 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, providing crucial funding for the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (D&) and all 49 National Heritage Areas in the U.S. The bill provides a total of \$19,821,000 in funding for National Heritage Areas and issued a directive to the National Park Service to find alternatives in the funding formula that would otherwise result in decreased National Heritage Area funding.

Faced with the potential of a \$200,000 reduction in federal funding within the next 1 to 3 years, the 2016 sustained funding and a directive to the National Park Service to the D&L is able to continue operations. The Corridor creates over 3300 jobs and \$240 million in annual revenues.

The D&L preserves the shared industrial history of Carbon, Luzerne, Lehigh, Northampton, and Bucks Counties. The D&L Trail connects people to nature, culture, communities, recreation and our industrial heritage.

A major focus in 2016 will be preserving the historic transportation route that anthracite coal took from mine to market, by expanding programming at the National Canal Museum and continuing to make progress toward completing the 165-mile D&L Trail. Notable goals include making substantial progress toward connecting 130 miles of continuous trail with a pedestrian bridge at Jim Thorpe and implementing National Canal Museum educational programs, including a schedule of “Conversations on the Canal” aboard the Josiah White II canal boat and new weekly programming for children and adults.

The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that preserves historic pathways that carried coal and iron from Wilkes-Barre to Philadelphia. Today, the D&L Trail connects people to nature, culture, communities, recreation and our industrial heritage.

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