



American Discovery Trail

Making connections coast-to-coast

NEWS RELEASE

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Front Royal, VA – The American Discovery Trail Society is encouraged by the recent hearing on the *National Discovery Trail Act*, H.R. 4878. The National Parks Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee met in April to discuss the proposed legislation and support was very high.

Subcommittee Chair Joe Neguse (D-CO) declared that "it was an idea whose time has come." He added that he was proud to support the American Discovery Trail and hopes that the bill will cross the finish line this year. Congressional support also emerged from new Members of Congress, including Congressman Jay Obernolte, (R-CA), who noted that the American Discovery Trail has bipartisan support among its 62 co-sponsors.

"The bipartisan support for our bill voiced during the hearing reflects the belief across the country that the designation of the American Discovery Trail as an official part of the National Trails System will benefit everyone," says ADTS President Eric Seaborg.

Seaborg served as a witness during the hearing and expertly refuted several concerns raised by the National Park Service. Seaborg stressed that establishing the new category of Discovery Trail was an NPS idea and the conclusion of their mandated study.

The American Discovery Trail achieves the primary purpose of the National Trails Act, which is to make trails accessible to people in urban and rural locations. The primary feature of the 6,800+ mile American Discovery Trail is that it connects the nation through metro areas, rural towns, historic sites, wilderness areas, and more.

Contrary to concerns raised, the American Discovery Trail does not alter the existing maintenance and management responsibilities of the cities, communities, and states transited by the trail. If passed, the *National Discovery Act* would not allow the federal government to take over the current non-federal routes and the trail will not become federal land.

The ADTS has received a flood of letters in support of the *National Discovery Trail Act*. Sporting associations, trail groups, businesses, economic development organizations, and city mayors across the country are urging members of Congress to support and co-sponsor the *National Discovery Trail Act*.

"There is strong, bipartisan, and nation-wide support for the American Discovery Trail and H.R. 4878," says Seaborg. "We look forward to speedy approval by the committee and passage by the House."

More information on H.R. 4878, including the text of our initial statement and rebuttal to the NPS can be found on our website, www.discoverytrail.org. For more information contact ADTS President Eric Seaborg at eric@seaborg.net or ADTS Congressional Liaison Peter Schoettle at pgschoettle@gmail.com.

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