

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6798

To amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to designate as a component of the National Heritage Area System the Calumet National Heritage Area in the States of Indiana and Illinois, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 17, 2025

Ms. KELLY of Illinois (for herself, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CASTEN, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to designate as a component of the National Heritage Area System the Calumet National Heritage Area in the States of Indiana and Illinois, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Calumet National Her-
5 itage Area Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) the Calumet region is composed of—

2 (A) 3 counties in the State of Indiana; and

3 (B) portions of 2 counties in the State of
4 Illinois;

5 (2) taken as a whole, the Calumet region—

6 (A) possesses exceptional cultural, natural,
7 and historical resources that form a cohesive
8 and nationally distinctive landscape;

9 (B) showcases landscapes that arose from
10 the unprecedented encounter of United States
11 industrial urbanization with a richly biodiverse
12 natural region at the southern end of Lake
13 Michigan; and

14 (C) offers compelling educational opportu-
15 nities relating to—

16 (i) the manner in which industrial
17 progress forged dramatic changes to the
18 natural world;

19 (ii) the importance of environmental
20 conservation and restoration, innovation,
21 and change for industries and workers;
22 and

23 (iii) the range of cultural practices
24 brought to the Calumet region by the large

1 numbers of immigrants and migrants who
2 settled in the Calumet region;

3 (3) there is a national interest in conserving,
4 restoring, promoting, and interpreting the benefits
5 of the Calumet National Heritage Area for—

6 (A) the residents of the Calumet region;
7 and

8 (B) visitors to the Calumet National Herit-
9 age Area;

10 (4) the nationally significant historical and cul-
11 tural resources located in the Calumet National Her-
12 itage Area represent unique aspects of the heritage
13 of the United States;

14 (5) the Calumet region—

15 (A) was previously designated as a natural
16 botanical preserve; and

17 (B) was the site of early advances in the
18 science of ecology;

19 (6) with respect to the economic development of
20 the United States—

21 (A) the post-Civil War industrial boom in
22 the Calumet region made the Calumet region
23 the largest industrial district in the world dur-
24 ing the first half of the 20th century;

1 (B) the Calumet region remains the lead-
2 ing steel producing region in the United States;

3 (C) the economic development took place
4 at the water, rail, and highway transportation
5 crossroads of the United States; and

6 (D) industrialists pioneered new methods
7 of housing employees in industrial towns at
8 Pullman, Marktown, and Gary;

9 (7) employees that were drawn to the Calumet
10 region made the Calumet region a crucible of work-
11 ing class and ethnic cultures;

12 (8) new approaches to natural resource man-
13 agement in an industrial region were developed in
14 the Calumet region;

15 (9) significant historical and cultural sites in
16 the Calumet region include—

17 (A) the ongoing presence of the steel in-
18 dustry in the United States, including the most
19 recently constructed integrated steelworks and
20 the largest operating integrated steelworks;

21 (B) Pullman National Historical Park;

22 (C) Indiana Dunes National Park;

23 (D) a National Historic Landmark;

24 (E) 4 Historic American Engineering
25 Record sites;

1 (F) 5 Historic American Buildings Survey
2 sites;

3 (G) 2 National Scenic Byways;

4 (H) 2 units of the National Water Trails
5 System; and

6 (I) 2 National Underground Railroad Net-
7 work to Freedom sites;

8 (10) nationally significant natural and physical
9 resources in the Calumet region include spectacular
10 natural, scenic, and recreational assets, including—

11 (A) Indiana Dunes National Park, 1 of the
12 most species-rich units of the National Park
13 System, including the critical conservation land
14 that buffers the unit;

15 (B) outstanding examples of glaciated
16 landscapes that illustrate ecological succession;

17 (C) 5 national natural landmarks;

18 (D) 48,000 acres of land protected outside
19 the boundary of the Indiana Dunes National
20 Park, a significant record of urban conservation
21 by land trusts, local park districts, and forest
22 preserve districts; and

23 (E) an active legacy of ecological restora-
24 tion, including on the Grand Calumet Area of

1 Concern and at hundreds of sites benefitting
2 from volunteer contributions;

3 (11) local public and private partnerships based
4 on the visions of the community and region that are
5 working together to promote the stewardship, en-
6 hancement, and interpretation of the resources of
7 the Calumet National Heritage Area;

8 (12) to promote the goals described in para-
9 graph (11), local residents, organizations, and gov-
10 ernments support the establishment of a national
11 heritage area, as indicated in the Calumet National
12 Heritage Area Feasibility Study approved by the
13 National Park Service; and

14 (13) the designation of the Calumet National
15 Heritage Area would enhance the efforts to promote
16 the cultural, natural, historical, and recreational re-
17 sources of the Calumet region that have been made
18 by—

19 (A) the States of Indiana and Illinois;

20 (B) political subdivisions of the States of
21 Indiana and Illinois;

22 (C) the Field Museum of Natural History;

23 (D) Indiana Dunes Tourism;

24 (E) the South Shore Convention and Visi-
25 tors Authority;

(F) volunteer organizations; and

(G) private businesses.

**SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF CALUMET NATIONAL HERITAGE
AREA.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—Section 6001(a) of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Public Law 116–9; 133 Stat. 768; 136 Stat. 6163) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(14) CALUMET NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—There is established as a component of the National Heritage Area System the Calumet National Heritage Area in the States of Indiana and Illinois, as depicted on the map on page 25 of the Calumet National Heritage Area Feasibility Study, dated April 14, 2018, as subsequently modified, the boundaries of which start at 71st Street and Lake Michigan in Chicago and proceed west along 71st Street to Western Avenue, then south on Western Avenue to 95th Street, then west on 95th Street to Pulaski Road, then south on Pulaski Road to I–57, then south on I–57 to Crete-Monee Road, then east on Crete-Monee Road, continuing on West New Monee Road to end at State Street, and then extend to the In-

1 diana State Line, with Lake, Porter, and
2 LaPorte Counties included.

3 “(B) LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.—The
4 Calumet Heritage Partnership shall be the local
5 coordinating entity for the National Heritage
6 Area designated by subparagraph (A).”.

7 (b) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—For the purposes of sec-
8 tion 6001(c) of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation,
9 Management, and Recreation Act (Public Law 116–9; 133
10 Stat. 772; 136 Stat. 6173), the local coordinating entity
11 for the Calumet National Heritage Area designated under
12 the amendment made by subsection (a) shall submit to
13 the Secretary of the Interior for approval a proposed man-
14 agement plan for the Calumet National Heritage Area not
15 later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

16 (c) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—For the purposes
17 of subsection (g)(4) of section 6001 of the John D. Din-
18 gell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act
19 (Public Law 116–9; 133 Stat. 776), the authority of the
20 Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance under that
21 section for the Calumet National Heritage Area des-
22 ignated under the amendment made by subsection (a)
23 shall terminate on the date that is 15 years after the date
24 of enactment of this Act.

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