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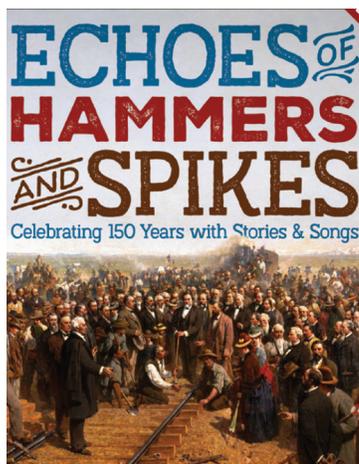
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April 29, 2019

House Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Raul Grijalva and Ranking Member Rob Bishop:

I write to you on behalf of Utah Pioneer Heritage Arts (UPHA) ([upharts.org](http://upharts.org)) to express my support for the enactment of HR 1049, the National Heritage Area Act of 2019.

UPHA has partnered with the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area (MPNHA) as its interpretive affiliate on many projects that have played a pivotal role in preserving our heritage, increasing tourism, and fostering economic revitalization in this rural area of Utah.

In 2011 and 2012 UPHA and the MPNHA partnered with the Utah Office of Tourism to produce a familiarization (FAM) tour that took five national journalists and many local influencers on a tour from St. George in southern Utah through the MPNHA all the way to Salt Lake City, with a five-piece folk band singing and telling the local stories along the way, garnering ground-breaking articles that focused significant attention on the MPNHA's virtues.

In 2013 the Association of National Heritage Areas (ANHA) Conference was held in the MPNHA, and UPHA again provided artistic interpretations of the stories of the area.

From 2011 through the present, UPHA has supported the Discovery Road TV Series, especially the following episodes: "The Dreams I Left Behind", for which we composed, recorded, and performed the theme song and supplied background music (underscoring) and on-camera talent; the "Maude Adams" episode, for which we supplied on-camera talent and background music, and "The Forgotten", for which we also supplied the theme song, on-camera talent, and underscoring music.

UPHA has also supported live performances of music and storytelling for events that dovetail with and grow out of the stories of the MPNHA. Examples are the Graham family reunion (Dreams I Left Behind) and the Blackham gathering (The Forgotten).

Beginning in 2013 and continuing to the present, The Legacy Series of recordings and full-color small-format story publications, "Saga of the Sanpitch", "The Valley of the Trails", and "A Canyon Peoples' Portrait".

World Premiere concerts and video recordings of the Symphony of the Canyons and the Legacy Folk Ensemble, resulting in the DVD “A Canyon Peoples’ Portrait”, which showcases the local talent and the local stories of Kane County.

UPHA also assists in preserving local history and heritage by audio and video recording oral histories, and by creating artistic interpretations (music, dance, visual art, books, etc.) of those stories for presentation in heritage programming in broadcast media and live events.

UPHA regularly supplies heritage programming for the Scandinavian Heritage Festival, Sons of Utah Pioneers, Daughters of Utah Pioneers, The Old Spanish Trail Association, Escalante Heritage, Boulder Heritage Foundation, Western Legends Festival, Piute ATV Jamboree, Butch Cassidy Boyhood Home Restoration, Monroe City Pioneer Days, the Clarion Descendents 100th Anniversary Celebration, and other heritage organizations and programs within the MPNHA.

Content for the mobile app Story Road Utah, which reaches out to travelers and alerts them to stories and sites right around them as they travel (which encourages travelers to stay longer and spend more in the heritage area) has also been developed with funds provided by the MPNHA and the funds it receives from the enacted legislation.

Passage of H.R. 1049 is crucial to ensure that the federal government through the National Park Service continues to play a crucial part in these types of multi-party partnerships through the 20-year authorization of the program. Thank you for your consideration.

Gratefully,

Clive Romney, Executive Director