

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

Dear Chairman Raul Grijalva and Ranking Member Rob Bishop:

I am writing on behalf of Mt. Pleasant, to express my support for the enactment of HR 1049, the National Heritage Area Act of 2019. The Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area (MPNHA) plays a pivotal role in the conservation and enhancement of the natural, cultural and historic resources of our community. We rely on MPNHA to initiate and manage complex and long-term projects among many stakeholders. This is because the organization is viewed to be both trusted and extremely competent all across the spectrum of community groups.

Let me cite just one or two specific examples:

The MPNHA has contributed funding for many projects in Mt. Pleasant. One recipient is the Mt. Pleasant Public Library, an original Carnegie Library, est. 2017. This library underwent an extensive renovation in 2011 - 2012. MPNHA contributed to developmental and architectural costs, furnishings, subsequent repairs, cement and cosmetic work and new gutters. Furthermore, on the Library lawn, at the central intersection of Mt. Pleasant, a Mormon Pioneer Heritage marker sits, identifying the area as "Little Denmark", one of the five sections of the entire loop. Recently, MPNHA refurbished the sign, making it more legible and fit the style of the majestic library in the background.

Furthermore, it has been suggested that Mt. Pleasant Public Library co-sponsor a photography contest with MPNHA. This is of interest by the Utah State Library, and its investment in rural libraries. The purpose would invite local residents to photograph their surroundings and provide images with historical elements that merge with today's scenery, shedding a positive light on this significant component of the MPNHA and promoting tourism. As a possible pilot program, this venture could be repeated along the entire route, including all eleven rural and small libraries along the way, telling the story through imagery.

Passage of HR 1049 is crucial to ensure that the federal government through the National Park Service continues to play a small but important part in these type of multi-party partnerships through the 20-year authorization of the program. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Laurie Hansen  
MPNHA Library Liaison