

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 Spring City to express my support for the enactment of HR 1049, the National Heritage Area Act of 2019. The 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:

For 30+ years, our local historic preservation group, The Friends of Historic Spring City, had worked to raise funds to restore a beautiful pioneer-era school to be used as a community center that included a museum, event space, rentable space, and city offices. Spring City is a tiny town, and for some years through the 1950s-70s, it was nearly a ghost town. Although it has a very small tax base, the unique layout and the well-preserved and restored pioneer buildings have enabled it to become a National Historic District. The MPNHA provided much needed funds for the historic restoration of the old school at a pivotal time, when we were assembling a match with an important grant-giving foundation, and these funds were essential to the completion of this important building in our town. The building makes a huge difference—we now have a space for concerts, weddings, family reunions, and it generates much-needed funds for the town. It also gives us a sense of pride in the heritage that Spring City owns, and an optimism that the town will continue on.

The MPNHA has also contributed funds for important improvements along our Main Street—repairing the monument and mechanism that keeps the spring for which our town is named flowing, and helping to restore our “Victory Hall,” once a vaudeville house. Also, in spite of the fact that Spring City has a strong tradition of military service, we’ve never had a Veterans’ Memorial of any kind—now, thanks to private donations and a grant from the MPNHA, one has recently been built, and it is an important recognition for many Spring City families of the service given by their loved ones.

Passage of H.R. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alison Clark", is written over a thin horizontal line.

President, Friends of Historic Spring City