



Casino Star Theatre Foundation

78 South Main - P.O. Box 429 - Gunnison, UT 84634

Lori Nay 435.979.9235 - Diana Major Spencer 435.979.2798

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 the Casino Star Theatre and Gunnison 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:

The Casino Star Theatre is a beautifully newly restored historic theater located in a small rural community in central Utah along Highway 89. Over the past 14 years, we have benefitted from MPNHA as they have helped us in the renovation of this iconic beaux-arts style theater. Without their help, we would not been able to accomplish the rehabilitation of this theater which has been playing first run cinema since 1913 which we believe to be the longest continually run cinema in the nation.

In addition, MPNHA helped Gunnison City with a Kiosk and memorial event for the Jewish community of Clarion in our Valley. Though the community disbanded, its impact on our valley and the local people's impact on that early pioneer Jewish settlement was very evident when the 100 year anniversary was celebrated in Gunnison with the some of the former members and their posterity returning for an amazing event.

MPNHA serves a vital purpose in our region. 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,

Lori Nay
Executive Director, Casino Star Theatre
and current Mayor of Gunnison City