

Advisory Council on  
Historic Preservation  
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Washington, D.C. 20005

WITNESS STATEMENT

Prepared Statement of Robert R. Garvey, Jr., Executive Director of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation before the Subcommittee on National Parks and Insular Affairs, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, February 17, 1978.

Mr. Chairman:

The Council has the following comments to make on HR 10970, "A Bill to provide for the establishment of the Lowell National Cultural Park in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

In December of 1976, the full Council made an on-site inspection of the proposed park area and reviewed the activities of the Lowell Historic Canal District Commission as they related to the proposed Lowell National Cultural Park. At that time, Mr. Chairman, the Council unanimously adopted a resolution supporting the creation of the park. The resolution reads as follows:

"The Council commends the Lowell Historic Canal District Commission's imaginative concept of a national cultural park to preserve and enhance the historic resources of Lowell, Massachusetts, and also commends the City, its residents, and the State and Federal agencies for their successful cooperative effort in preparing a plan for congressional action."

As HR 10970 was introduced on Monday of this week, Mr. Chairman, we have not developed comments on many of the technical aspects of the bill. We would, however, like to comment on two major concepts in this proposal which the Council considers to be of major import. The first is the establishment of an urban park that embodies both historic and natural resources. This is a new concept in park proposals, and one that reflects the integration and conservation of both the natural and cultural facets of our heritage in a living urban environment. The Council strongly endorses this concept. Second, Mr. Chairman, the Council has been particularly supportive of the opportunity in Lowell to establish a park with limited Federal acquisition. This approach may have far reaching implications for future park proposals. The fewer dollars we use to acquire the right to preserve allows us to use limited Federal funds for preservation and development activities. Further, limited Federal acquisition combined with joint management by Federal, State, and local governments, working together through cooperative mechanisms, will help ensure the people of Lowell a dynamic environment in which to live and work.

*The Council is an independent unit of the Executive Branch of the Federal Government charged by the Act of October 15, 1966 to advise the President and Congress in the field of Historic Preservation.*

Beyond these two major concepts, Mr. Chairman, the Council has endorsed other elements of HR 10790. Among them are the delineation of intensive use and preservation zones as cultural resource planning tools, the provision of grants and technical assistance for maintenance, management, preservation, and interpretation of significant properties within the zones, completion of a comprehensive inventory of resources within the proposed park boundaries including an evaluation of those properties that contribute to the significance of the proposed Lowell National Cultural Park and, based upon the inventory and evaluation, development of a Park Management Plan.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, the Council endorses the concepts embodied in this bill as an innovative and imaginative approach to the preservation and conservation of those resources within the first planned industrial city in the United States that contribute significantly to our national heritage.