



ESSEX NATIONAL
HERITAGE AREA

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**NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA CAUCUS FORMED. LOCAL CONGRESSIONAL
REPRESENTATIVES SUPPORTIVE OF ESSEX HERITAGE EFFORTS TO SEEK
SUSTAINABLE FEDERAL PLAN**

Local support obtained for strategic priorities

June 17, 2010 (Salem, MA) . . . Essex Heritage (The Essex National Heritage Commission), a regional advocate for the quality of life and sustainable development on the North Shore joined its sister Heritage Area organizations across the country in a rally and press event on U.S. Capitol grounds on Tuesday, June 15 where the formation of a National Heritage Area House Caucus was announced by the Caucus's Co-Chairmen Congressman Paul D. Tonko (D-NY) and Congressman Charles W. Dent (R-PA). Essex Heritage representatives visited with Congressman John F. Tierney and Congresswoman Niki Tsongas who represent the 34 cities and towns that comprise the Essex National Heritage Area. They also met with key Congressional staff members to discuss the main strategic priorities the Caucus will focus on. Both Congressional members expressed support for Essex Heritage and its strong track record of programmatic results in promoting and preserving Area historic, cultural and natural resources.

The advocacy effort and rally, organized by The Alliance of National Heritage Areas, a membership group dedicated to furthering the success of National Heritage Areas, urged Congressional support of important Heritage Area priorities, including the support of legislation that will move Heritage Areas into an official program of the National Park Service, creating an a path for future sustainability.

“As one who has long fought to strengthen the federal government's commitment to the Essex National Heritage Area, I am pleased to join the Congressional Heritage Area Caucus. I look forward to continuing to work with Annie Harris, Tom Leonard and the entire Essex National Heritage Commission staff to support and promote historic preservation, economic development, and other initiatives that enrich our local communities,” said Congressman John Tierney (D-Salem).

“Essex Heritage greatly appreciates the active support of our Congressional delegation in our fight for sustainability,” said Annie C. Harris, Essex Heritage Executive Director, “As members of Congress who recognize the value we bring to the economic development of the region and its links to cultural tourism and resource stewardship, they understand that Heritage Areas are a smart, financially efficient model for public/private partnerships that leverage diverse investment into locally driven initiatives.”

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About the Essex National Heritage Area and Essex Heritage

Designated by the US Congress in recognition of the important role that this region played in American history and its significant heritage sites still remaining, the Essex National Heritage Area is comprised of the 34 communities of Essex County, MA. Essex Heritage is a non profit agency that manages the Heritage Area, and works in collaboration with the National Park Service to promote public/private partnerships, and develop programs that enhance, preserve and encourage regional awareness of the Area's unique historic, cultural and natural resources. For more information, visit Essex Heritage at www.essexheritage.org or call (978) 740-0444.