March 11, 2009

I thank the chairman, and I commend him for his good work on this legislation, which would preserve important pieces of America's natural, cultural, and historical resources for future generations. Others have spoken today about valuable parts of this bill. I'd like to address that. In New Jersey, this bill would preserve our heritage as one of the leaders of the Industrial Revolution by creating the Paterson Great Falls National Historic Park and the Edison National Historic Park.

Paterson Great Falls will protect and preserve a striking natural resource, the Great Falls, along with cultural and historical sites that tell the stories of our Founders, America's economic rise, and the African American experience. Edison National Historic Park will ensure that future generations have an opportunity to visit the home and laboratory of one of New Jersey's most celebrated and influential citizens and one of America's most prominent inventors, Thomas Edison.

I'd like to commend my colleagues from New Jersey, Representatives Pascrell and Payne, for their hard work on these issues, and I'd also like to commend Representative Hinchey for his work on the Washington Rochambeau Trail in this bill. The trail will help link many of the sites in New Jersey's Crossroads of the American Revolution. These sites are of great importance to the residents of central New Jersey, and I urge my colleagues to support it.