

NEWS RELEASE

State Senator Jane Clare Orie MAJORITY WHIP

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ORIE BILL WOULD CONTINUE HERITAGE AREA PROGRAM

Seeking to preserve and protect many important historic, cultural and natural areas of the Commonwealth, Senator Jane Orie (R-40) has introduced legislation to place the state's Heritage Area Program into law.

The Heritage Area Program, administered by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, was developed in the late 1980s to promote 12 areas of the state that have special historic, recreational, cultural, natural and scenic resources, including the "Rivers of Steel," located in Allegheny, Butler and five other southwestern counties.

"These areas have very important historical and cultural significance," said Sen. Orie. "They possess a variety of resources and include walking and cycling trails, wild, scenic and recreational rivers and greenways, and educational activities. All of these areas are so important to improving the quality of life here in Pennsylvania."

"On behalf of Heritage PA and the coalition of the 12 heritage areas in Pennsylvania, we thank Sen. Orie for her leadership in advancing this important bill," said August R. Carlino, President & CEO of the Steel Industry Heritage Corporation. "Pennsylvania's heritage areas are models for the nation, having been replicated in several states. Sen. Orie's bill will make permanent this important program for the Commonwealth, and will ensure the benefits of heritage development and tourism will continue to be available to the communities across the state."

"PA's Heritage Areas are economic engines leveraging substantial investment in our Commonwealth, stimulating business development and creating jobs," said Sen. Orie. "Heritage areas also help develop Pennsylvania's second largest industry, tourism."

Senate Bill 617 will be referred to the Senate Environmental Protection and Energy Committee for its review. More information on the Heritage areas is available at www.heritagepa.net.

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