



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

JUL 16 1980

ISSUING

FILE

J. B. ...

Mr. Aaron Hyatt
President, Western North Carolina
Associated Communities
Post Office Box 103
Cullowhee, North Carolina 28723

JUL 10 1980

NPS
#108

Dear Mr. Hyatt:

Thank you for your letter of May 8, 1980, enclosing a resolution supporting H.R. 5694, a bill to authorize a study of the Trail of Tears for possible designation as a National Historic Trail.

Hearings were held on H.R. 5694, along with other trail bills, last November. We understand that the bill is pending before the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee.

Only the Congress can amend the National Trails System Act to authorize a study of the Trail of Tears route. If this is done and the study finds that the route meets the criteria for qualification as a National Historic Trail, a study report, including a recommendation for designation, a conceptual plan for trail development and cost estimates, is forwarded to the Congress for consideration. Pertinent references to historic trails are included in the enclosed copy of the National Trails System Act. Once the study is authorized, the National Park Service, as the agency responsible for conducting the study, will inform interested public officials of the study process and seek their views on the resources covered by the study.

Another way in which a trail may be part of the National Trails System is by designation as a National Recreation Trail. Such designations are made by the Secretary of the Interior, or by the Secretary of Agriculture, where lands under the jurisdiction of that Department are involved. In the event that there may be segments of the Trail of Tears that could be brought into the national system by that means, we are enclosing a booklet which describes criteria and application procedures. The staff of the Southeast Regional Office, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 75 Spring Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, will be glad to provide assistance if you wish to pursue National Recreation Trail designation.



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

We appreciate your interest in having the Trail of Tears included in the National Trails System. If we can be of further assistance in this matter, please contact us again.

Sincerely,

(sgd.) John Gingles

JOHN GINGLES
Deputy Director for House Liaison
Office of Congressional and
Legislative Affairs

Enclosures

cc: AS/FW ~~CL~~ FHR CL NPS (Bob Eastman) w/c inc
SZRO (John Brown) w/c inc NRSP Mr. Ritsch FHR File
FHR: EBoone:ew:5/29/80:4793 POR #8330
Revised: NPS: Terry Wood: CL: AKeary: lm: 6/17/80: 7261

Western North Carolina Associated Communities
ESTABLISHED 1946
A VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION OF COMMUNITIES IN THE ELEVEN COUNTIES
NORTH CAROLINA

BUNCOMBE
CHEROKEE
CLAY
GRAHAM
HAYWOOD
HENDERSON

JACKSON
MACON
MADISON
SWAIN
TRANSYLVANIA

May 8, 1980

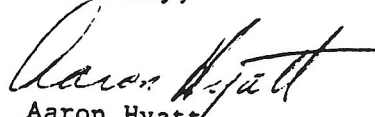
Mr. John Jingles
Assistant to the Director
Congressional & Legislative Affairs
Department of Interior
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Jingles:

Attached is a resolution that was recently passed by this Association supporting a bill (HR5694) to amend the National Trails Systems Act, 1968, which provides for a national system of scenic, historic, and recreational trails, by authorizing a suitability/feasibility study of the Cherokee "Trail of Tears" and for its designation as a national historic trail.

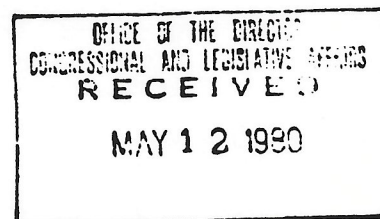
Western North Carolina Associated Communities seeks your support of this resolution. We will appreciate your careful and thoughtful attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Aaron Hyatt
President

bcd

Enclosure



BOB Mail Control No. POA 8330

Western North Carolina Associated Communities

ESTABLISHED 1946

A VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION OF COMMUNITIES IN THE ELEVEN COUNTIES

NORTH CAROLINA

BUNCOMBE
CHEROKEE
CLAY
GRAHAM
HAYWOOD
HENDERSON

JACKSON
MACON
MADISON
SWAIN
TRANSYLVANIA

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION in support of a bill (H.R. 5694) to amend the National Trails Systems Act, 1968, which provides for a national system of scenic, historic, and recreation trails, by authorizing a suitability/feasibility study of the Cherokee "Trail of Tears" and for its designation as a national historic trail.

WHEREAS, the Cherokee people were forceably evicted from their lands east of the Mississippi and removed to Oklahoma, and

WHEREAS, the Cherokee people were interned in military forts and then were forced to move west to the Indian territory in Oklahoma, and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that over 4,000 Cherokees, almost one fourth of their total population died in transit while making this march to Oklahoma, and

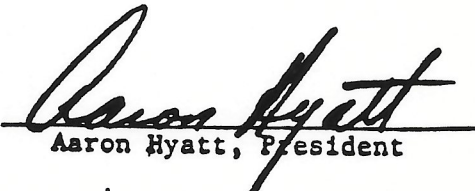
WHEREAS, this march, which is referred to as the "Trail of Tears", represents one of the most tragic episodes in American history,


WHEREAS, in 1951 the Cherokee Historical Association documented the route of the Trail of Tears, retraced its route with representatives from the organization, and has accumulated much other information about the Cherokee removal to Oklahoma,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATED COMMUNITIES, THAT

1. A study be conducted to determine the feasibility and suitability of designating The Trail of Tears as a national historic trail.
2. The route of this trial, assembly areas, associated forts and sites, be identified and marked with appropriate plaques, and other actions be taken to preserve and identify this historic route.
3. The suitability/feasibility study include use of materials now available in the file of the Cherokee Historical Association and consult with that organization during the study.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED AT THE SPRING ANNUAL MEETING OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATED COMMUNITIES AT THE FOLK ART CENTER, OTEEN, NORTH CAROLINA, APRIL 22, 1980.


Aaron Hyatt, President


Dorothy Mason, Secretary