

2-14-1990

Reauthorization: S. 2724 (1990): Memorandum 07

Randy McAusland

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_L77

Recommended Citation

McAusland, Randy, "Reauthorization: S. 2724 (1990): Memorandum 07" (1990). *Reauthorization: S. 2724 (1990)*. Paper 1.

https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_L77/1 https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_L77/1

This Memorandum is brought to you for free and open access by the Education: National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, Subject Files I (1973-1996) at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in Reauthorization: S. 2724 (1990) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@etal.uri.edu.

**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR
THE ARTS**

**WASHINGTON
D.C. 20506**

file



A Federal agency advised by the
National Council on the Arts

MEMORANDUM

DESIGN ARTS PROGRAM

DATE: February 14, 1990
TO: John E. Frohnmayer, Chairman
CC: Alvin Felzenberg, Senior Deputy Chairman
Mary Ann Klink, Congressional Liaison
Ana Steele, Acting Deputy Chairman for Programs
FROM: Randy McAusland, Design Arts Program
SUBJECT: Information Brief
H.R. 3963 Supporting Landscape Assessment & Plans

Judy
*This is our take on the
Kostmayer Bill. We
can do it. I'll put in
the Chairman's full
support.*
5/15/90

BACKGROUND

Representative Peter Kostmayer, PA, introduced a Bill to provide matching grants to states localities and private organizations to assess their landscape resources and plans for their future. Possible recipients include landscape architecture schools, State Arts Agencies with design programs, state historic preservation agencies, chapters of professional design societies like the ASLA and APA, design practitioners, as well as the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation. The Bill amends the Endowment's current legislation by adding this specific provision. It strengthens the Design Arts Program's "Your Town" initiative, the grant category for rural design projects, and responds to popular interest in historic and rural landscapes, issues and audiences that conform with the disciplines served by the Program.

FUNDING & ADMINISTRATION

The Bill does not specify funds. The objectives can be accomplished for a two-year trial period at an annual level of \$250,000 for the state provision and \$500,000 for the local and non-profit organization provision. Under such a scenario, administration can be accomplished with existing Design Arts Staff: Carol Whipple, a landscape architect from the National Park Service, Jeffrey Soule, a planner with experience in rural communities, and Peter Hawley, a National Trust Main Street and Tourism Program Manager, are fully qualified to prepare guidelines and provide administrative support. Funds would be required for two additional panels per year, supporting material, and staff travel to provide grant-making assistance. An additional Program Specialist will be needed if demand and budget grow.

DISCUSSION

It could be said that nothing prevents states or local groups from doing landscape assessments now. There are two problems with that argument. First, there is tremendous pressure on local government revenues and little incentive to think about long-term issues. Since users and beneficiaries of America's countryside often live elsewhere, sharing the responsibility and the costs seems appropriate. Second, design professionals are primarily in urban areas. There is no ready source of local assistance in rural areas where significant landscapes are threatened.

John E. Frohnmayer
February 14, 1990
Page Two

No other federal agency has such a program and most agencies with traditional roles in land use – National Park Service, Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service and Environmental Protection – deal either with federal land or perform a regulatory role. The Endowment is the only agency charged with promoting aesthetic design quality. It has a proven process for awarding grants of this nature. The intent of the Bill relates to existing efforts to assist states and locals with design issues.

Land interests could read this as anti-development, but it has clear provisions for each land interest group to be presented. As other past federal planning assistance programs, this could also be regarded as providing plans to sit useless on a shelf. Here the Bill differs with past approaches by requiring both citizen participation in the local process and specific steps and responsibilities to be spelled out.

HISTORY OF THE BILL & PLAYERS

1. **Congressional Hearing.** Rep. Kostmayer is Chairman of the House Interiors Committee Subcommittee on General Oversight and Investigations. He held a hearing January 30, 1990 at which I testified along with 19 other experts on "Open Space and the Built Environment."
2. **Prior Congressional Interest.** I understand that staff of Rep. Joseph McDade, PA, began working on this idea more than a year ago, discussing with American Society of Landscape Architects and the National Park Service.
3. **Kostmayer's Staff.** After I testified, David Weiss of Mr. Kostmayer's staff called 2/1 to say that the Congressman wanted to introduce legislation immediately; he queried me about how technical assistance might be provided via different Federal agencies. He said that he and the Congressman might want to talk with me further, but set no date.
4. **The Bill Introduced.** The first I learned of the actual bill was when I received a fax copy from the American Society of Landscape Architects. I assumed their Congressional people had worked on it with Kostmayer; they assumed I did. In truth, neither of us did.
5. **The Bill's Future.** Neither the landscape people nor I have any a clue about co-sponsors, the relationship between Education and Labor Committee that will oversee reauthorization and the Interiors Committee people, or when additional hearing will be held.
6. **Contacts.** At Mr. Kostmayer's office: David Weiss 226-4085. The American Society of Landscape Architects Congressional link: Betsy Cuthbertson 549-4990.

Enclosure: H.R. 3963
Testimony 1/30/90