

## Castle Announces First Major Funding Secured for Construction of C & D Canal Recreation Trail -- August 22, 2006

Castle joined by DNREC, Del DOT, Army Corps, DE City to announce first major funding secured for the C & D Canal Recreation Project

Wilmington, DE -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle joined Secretary John Hughes and supporters of the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal Recreation Trail on Monday to announce the latest milestone in the C&D Canal project; \$2.9 million in state funding has been secured and another \$1.7 million in federal funding is anticipated this fall. Additionally, New Castle County Executive Chris Coons committed an additional \$50,000 at the press conference today, bringing the grand total to \$4.65 million for the project. Funding will be used for design and construction of Phase I of the trail from Delaware City to Chesapeake City on the north side of the Canal, as recommended in the C & D Canal Trail Concept Plan, which was unveiled in April 2006. Construction could begin as early as 2007.

"Today marks yet another milestone in our efforts to enhance recreational opportunities for families throughout Delaware, Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic along the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. In April, we joined together to announce the completion of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Trail Concept Plan, and today we join together again in announcing the first major round of funding to turn this concept into reality. I am thrilled to report that we have secured \$2.9 million for the project in funding from various sources within the state of Delaware, and have almost secured an additional \$1.7 million in federal funds for the project, which brings us to a total of \$4.6 million. I would like to commend everyone here for helping us take this huge first step," Castle said.

A breakdown of the federal and state funding is outlined below (total = \$4.6 million):

### - Federal Funding FY '07

o \$1.7 million is included in the House Transportation Appropriations bill, which passed the House in June. Upon passage of the Senate version, the two spending bills will be reconciled in Conference before final passage. It is expected the final conference report will include the \$1.7 million.

### - Local Funding

o \$1.3 million from the Community Involvement Advisory Council (CIAC). Funding awarded to Delaware City from the Community Involvement Advisory Council would be used for the DE City Branch Canal Greenway Connector Project, which would restore an environmentally degraded wetland area within the city, reestablish the historic pathway link between DE City and the C&D Canal, and provide protection and access to the local cemetery where black Union soldiers are buried.

o \$1 million from the Bond and Capitol Improvements Act of the State of Delaware (House Bill No. 535).

o \$450,000 in Federal Transportation Enhancement funds (DelDOT): Funding from the federal tax on gasoline is awarded to states to be used for community-based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic and environmental aspects of our transportation infrastructure.

o \$150,000 in Federal Recreation Trails Program funds from DNREC: funding from the federal tax on gasoline is awarded to states to be used to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses.

Prior to the \$4.6 million, Castle secured \$150,000 in federal funds and DNREC, DeIDOT, and New Castle County each provided the local match of \$50,000 for a total of \$300,000 for the feasibility study and completion of the C & D Canal Trail Concept Plan.

In April 2006, Castle unveiled the C & D Canal Trail Concept Plan, which provides a road map for creating a multi-purpose trail along the Canal, accommodating a mix of bicycling, walking, and horseback riding (among other activities) with trail markers, restroom facilities, improved fishing piers, controlled access points, and parking areas. The overall plan includes a total of 29.2 miles of multi-use trail on both sides of the Canal along the first tier of the Corps service road. All of these enhancements will compliment existing activities, like fishing, dog training, hunting, and horseback riding, as well as the preservation of the Canal's wetlands, wildlife, and natural infrastructure.

The C & D Canal Working Group, established by Congressman Castle in late 2004, is comprised of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; U.S. Congressman Wayne Gilchrest; Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and Department of Transportation; Maryland's Department of Natural Resources; New Castle County, DE.; Cecil County, MD; Delaware City, DE; Chesapeake City, MD; and Delaware Greenways, Inc.