

The Brandywine Valley's recognition as a National Scenic Byway greatly benefits the State of Delaware -- September 2005

By: Delaware Congressman Mike Castle

The Brandywine Valley was recently bestowed with an important federal honor, one that we have never had here in Delaware. The Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway was accepted into the National Scenic Byways Program, recognizing it for its outstanding natural, recreational and cultural qualities. This makes it the only nationally recognized byway in the state of Delaware. We are very pleased to have this new honor in our state because the Brandywine Valley deserves this national recognition for its importance.

The Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway provides access to some of the most visited attractions in the area. Beautiful foliage and several estates created and maintained by the DuPont family surround the byway, including mansions and gardens where antique furnishings and artwork provide a glimpse into the rich history of the state of Delaware.

This honor helps the Brandywine Valley and the state in many ways. For example, conservation and enhancement of this beautiful and historical corridor will now be easier with this national recognition. It will also help to educate the people of Delaware, as well as visitors to the state, about this wonderful resource and the need to preserve it for the future.

The historical depth of attractions on Routes 52 and 100 in northern Delaware is also worthy of the designation. There are various historic properties along these routes including Winterthur, Hagley Museum and Library and many other sites that have a deep historical connection to the region and the country.

Today, as we see expansion and development throughout Delaware and the region, this land increases in importance and becomes a testament to the beauty and history of our state. Hopefully this recognition will help our efforts to creating a National Park in Delaware and establishing a recreation site along the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, by bringing more attention to all that the state has to offer. One of the reasons I have always loved living in this state is for its' beauty. You can drive along any one spot of this state and experience a beautiful natural wonder. The Brandywine Valley is of course, no exception.

We will continue to work tirelessly as a community to bring more national recognition to other parts of Delaware. After all, that is the Delaware way. Congratulations once again to the Brandywine Valley for its esteemed honor. I look forward to continuing to explore all the byway has to offer.