

Castle Continues Push to Make Delaware Part of the National Trails System -- April 12, 2007

Lewes, DE -- Delaware Congressman Castle today stood at the Eastern head of the American Discovery Trail (ADT) with local officials and community activists at Cape Henlopen State Park to announce his co-sponsorship of the National Discovery Trails Act and highlight the importance of the ADT throughout the country.

The legislation would authorize the American Discovery Trail as the first coast-to-coast trail in the country and give Delaware its first piece of the National Trails System. Additionally, the bill would amend the National Trails System Act to include a designation that allows linkage with metropolitan areas so that hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians can take an exploratory journey through America that includes wilderness, small towns, and cities.

"It is important to remember that the ADT stresses the importance of connections, whether it's connecting people or urban areas to the wilderness. For that reason, I think it's appropriate that the ADT starts and ends here in Delaware. We here in our small state understand the importance of community and connecting Delawareans throughout the state no matter where they live. The National Discovery Trails Act would make important changes so that the American Discovery Trail can finally become the first coast-to-coast trail while also allowing Delaware to become part of the National Trails System. I will work for the passage of this important bill which allows Americans to explore their country from one end to the other and also stresses the importance of protecting our natural resources," Castle said.

The American Discovery Trail consists of 6,800 miles of continuous, multi-use, non-motorized trails that stretch from Cape Henlopen State Park, Delaware to Pt. Reyes National Seashore in California. It connects five national scenic and 10 national historic trails, 23 national recreational trails, and many other local and regional trails and passes through metropolitan areas like San Francisco and Cincinnati. Additionally, it traces numerous pioneer trails, leads to 14 national parks and 16 national forests and visits more than 10,000 sites of historic, cultural and natural significance.

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