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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3222

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PUBLIC LANDS

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

April 17, 2009

Donal S. Heintzelman
6345 Ridge Road, Apt. 2
Zionsville, Pa 18092

Dear Mr. Heintzelman:

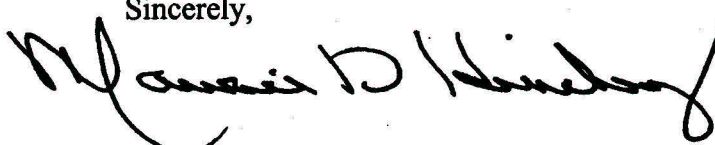
It is with great pleasure that I lend my support to your effort to have the Kittatinny-Shawangunk Ridge designated as the first National Raptor Migration Corridor. This region has been a haven for raptor biologists, conservationists, hawk watchers and birders for more than 75 years. The designation as a nationally significant wildlife corridor will bring the region the recognition it assuredly deserves, while ensuring that appropriate attention is focused on all future efforts to develop the land within the corridor.

The proposed corridor is comprised of a 250-mile long, relatively unbroken ridge in the Appalachian Raptor Migration Flyway, extending from the Shawangunks in New York to the Kittatinny in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. This route encompasses important stopover habitats for migratory raptors and migratory forest interior songbirds. Having the federal designation as the Kittatinny-Shawangunk National Raptor Migration Corridor will provide enhanced recognition and benefits for the region, similar to having a building listed on the Register of National Historic Places. It will, without adding to existing land use laws and regulations, encourage local and regional governments to take notice of the sensitive ecological and environmental locations within the corridor in the context of future land use activities.

I firmly believe that this designation, one that involves no added expense to the local, state or federal government partners, nor to any individual land owner, is a winning proposition for all parties. The designation of the Kittatinny-Shawangunk National Raptor Migration Corridor will enhance local and national awareness of this vital natural corridor and serve as a starting point in future discussions on conservation planning and land use initiatives.

Best regards.

Sincerely,



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