

## **The Western Reserve Heritage Study Act A Work in Progress Report**

**Congressman Tim Ryan  
17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District**

**Western Reserve Heritage Area:**

*“We can and should do more to promote the history, traditions and cultural resources of our region—and this legislation will help us do just that.” --Congressman Tim Ryan (OH-17)*

**Congressman Ryan has introduced legislation to commence a study that could result in establishing the Western Reserve Heritage Area (“Heritage Area”). The Heritage Area would include the counties of Trumbull, Mahoning, Ashtabula, Portage, Geauga, Lake, Cuyahoga, Summit, Medina, Huron, Lorain, Erie, Ottawa and Ashland, which were all part of the original Western Reserve territory.**

**Congressman Ryan’s legislation, the *Western Reserve Heritage Area Study Act*, H.R. 412, has earned bi-partisan support from his Ohio colleagues, along with the top Democratic Member of the House Committee on Resources, Ranking Member Nick Rahall (WV).**

**The Western Reserve Heritage Area Study Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Heritage Area. H.R. 412 has passed the House and has also passed the Senate as part of National Heritage Act of 2005, S. 203. In order for this legislation to be signed into law, one of these legislative vehicles must pass both chambers of Congress.**

**H.R. 412 provides the first step for Northern Ohio to receive up to \$10 million for the Heritage Area, with the potential for additional federal dollars in future years.**

**If the study confirms that the Western Reserve territory region meets the National Park Service guidelines, then a subsequent bill will be introduced that will establish the Heritage Area. Currently, there are 27 National Heritage Areas in the U.S., all working to provide resources to enhance and promote regions and encourage**

