



Sowams Heritage Area Legislative Action Toolkit



The Sowams NHA feasibility study is complete.

The time to act is NOW.

Urge Congress to introduce a Sowams NHA bill today!



After four years of intense community planning, the broad coalition of Sowams Heritage Area has finalized its study showing that our region abundantly meets the National Park Service criteria for a National Heritage Area (NHA).

The next 30 days are absolutely critical. Congress has begun holding hearings and advancing legislation to designate new National Heritage Areas, opening a critical window for introducing a bill to establish the Sowams National Heritage Area and possibly positioning it for inclusion in a future legislative package.

We need every resident in our nine communities to contact their federal lawmakers today. Ask them to step up and introduce the Sowams National Heritage Area Act!

Quick Facts to Know & Share

When you reach out to legislative staff, you can use these quick, verified highlights to explain why Sowams matters:

- **The Region:** Spans 9 towns across state lines. It includes Rehoboth, Seekonk, Somerset, and Swansea in Massachusetts; and Barrington, Bristol, East Providence, Warren, and the east side of Providence in Rhode Island.
- **National Significance:** It is the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Massasoit who welcomed the Pilgrims and forged a historic 50-year alliance. It is also a defining setting where King Philip's War began and ended and religious tolerance took root.
- **Deep Local Support:** All 9 municipal governments have passed supporting resolutions. Our coalition boasts 73 formal letters of support backed by over 450 regional stakeholder meetings.
- **The Benefits:** NHA status unlocks up to \$1/2 million annually in federal matching funds for local historic preservation, cultural education, environmental tourism, and economic development.

Legislative Contact Directory

*Note: Lawmakers only tally requests from their actual constituents.
Please contact the offices assigned to your home town.*

Massachusetts Residents

If you live in Rehoboth, Seekonk, Somerset, or Swansea:

Congressman Jake Auchincloss (MA-04)

- Phone: (202) 225-5931 (DC)
(617) 332-3333 (Newton)
- Email Form: [Auchincloss Contact Page](#)

Senator Ed Markey

- Phone: (202) 224-2742 (DC)
- Email Form: [Markey Share Your Opinion](#)

Senator Elizabeth Warren

- Phone: (202) 224-4543 (DC)
- Email Form: [Warren Email Me Page](#)

Rhode Island Residents

If you live in Barrington, Bristol, East Providence, Warren, or Providence:

Congressman Gabe Amo (RI-01)

- Phone: (202) 225-4911 (DC)
(401) 729-5600 (Providence)
- Email Form: [Amo Address Authentication Form](#)

Senator Jack Reed

- Phone: (202) 224-4642 (DC)
(401) 528-5200 (Providence)
- Email Form: [Reed Contact Page](#)

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse

- Phone: (202) 224-2921 (DC)
(401) 453-5294 (Providence)
- Email Form: [Whitehouse Email Sheldon Page](#)



Phone Call Script

When you call, a staff member will answer.

They are friendly and are there to count your vote.

The call takes less than 2 minutes!

"Hello, my name is [YOUR NAME] and I am a constituent living in [YOUR TOWN, STATE].

I am calling to ask [Senator / Representative NAME] to urgently introduce legislation designating Sowams as a National Heritage Area.

Our community has spent four years finishing a National Park Service feasibility study. All nine local cities and towns across Massachusetts and Rhode Island fully support this project. We have 73 formal letters of support from civic, historical, and tribal groups.

As the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Massasoit and the setting for pivotal events in early American history, our landscape is nationally significant.

Congress has begun advancing new NHA legislation right now. The next 30 days are critical to get Sowams included in any future legislative package.

Will the [Senator / Representative] commit to introducing or co-sponsoring a Sowams NHA bill this month?

Thank you for your time and for passing this message directly to the lawmaker."



Email / Web Form Template

Personalize the bracketed text below, then copy and paste it into the lawmaker's official contact form.

Subject: Please Introduce Legislation Establishing Sowams as a National Heritage Area (NHA)

Message:

Dear [Senator / Representative LAST NAME],

As your constituent residing in [YOUR TOWN, STATE], I am writing to urge you to immediately introduce or co-sponsor legislation establishing the Sowams National Heritage Area.

The Sowams landscape is one of the most historically significant regions in the United States. It is the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Massasoit, who welcomed the Pilgrims and forged a 50-year peace treaty. It is also the defining setting for the outbreak of King Philip's War and is fundamentally tied to the roots of American religious freedom.

After four years of exhaustive planning, extensive public forums, and more than 450 stakeholder meetings, our region is ready for Congressional action. All nine municipalities across the state line have passed formal resolutions backing this project, alongside 73 regional cultural, environmental, and civic organizations.

Official designation will protect these critical historic, cultural and environmental assets, unlock up to \$1/2 million in federal matching grants for our local economy, and strengthen historic tourism.

Because Congress has begun advancing new NHA legislation right now, the next 30 days are critical. I respectfully ask that you lead the way by introducing a Sowams NHA bill and positioning it for possible inclusion in a future legislative package.

Thank you for your leadership and your dedication to preserving our community's national legacy.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]

[YOUR STREET ADDRESS]

[YOUR TOWN, STATE, ZIP]