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"The Mississippi Hills Region is a unique area that contributes significantly to the state's tourism industry, culture, and history," said Congressman Childers. "Designating the Hills as a National Heritage Area will help bolster economic development in North Mississippi and throughout the state by preserving and promoting the Hill's rich cultural landscape and traditions."

The National Park Service began designating National Heritage Areas in 1984 to encourage economic growth through tourism, preserve and promote cultural and natural resources, and provide educational opportunities about a region's cultural and physical landscape. There are currently only 37 National Heritage Areas in the country.

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