

**HELP SAVE THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY  
FOR ITS 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY IN 2010:  
SUPPORT THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY PROTECTION ACT**

The Blue Ridge Parkway is a national treasure that attracts nearly 20 million visitors per year to North Carolina and Virginia. The Parkway is one of the strongest economic engines in the region, providing \$2.3 billion per year to local communities. **Yet it is an extremely fragile ribbon, and its scenic, cultural, and natural integrity are under constant threat of development.**

In most places, the Parkway's land corridor is only 800 feet wide, and most of the property that makes up its spectacular views is privately owned. We must act now to ensure that as much land as possible is conserved along the Parkway, to preserve its vistas, streams, forests and working farms for future generations' enjoyment and economic vitality.

**Fortunately, North Carolina and Virginia lawmakers have taken the lead on federal legislation to help save the Blue Ridge Parkway's majestic views and natural areas.** North Carolina Senators Richard Burr and Kay Hagan and Representatives Heath Shuler and David Price, along with Virginia Senators Jim Webb and Mark Warner and Representatives Rick Boucher and Tom Perriello, have introduced the **Blue Ridge Parkway Protection Act** to mark the 75th anniversary of the Parkway with significant funding for land protection.

The Act (**S2951** and **HR4524**) would authorize \$75 million over five years to purchase high-priority conservation properties and easements from willing landowners along the Parkway, towards a goal of protecting an additional 50,000 acres. Lack of funding has been a critical barrier to protecting the Parkway's natural resources. **Passage of the Blue Ridge Parkway Protection Act would constitute a critical investment in the Parkway's scenic, ecological and cultural vitality, and in western North Carolina's and Virginia's economic well-being and quality of life.**

**Please contact your US representatives and senators TODAY and ask them to cosponsor HR4524 or S2951 (or thank them for already doing so). Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 to be connected to their offices, or visit [www.ctnc.org/action](http://www.ctnc.org/action) to send an electronic message and keep up with the current status of the Blue Ridge Parkway Protection Act.**



**CONSERVATION TRUST  
FOR NORTH CAROLINA**