

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 222

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Northern Neck National Heritage Area in Virginia, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 2009

Mr. WITTMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Northern Neck National Heritage Area in Virginia, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. STUDY AND REPORT OF PROPOSED NORTH-**
4 **ERN NECK NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.**

5 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the
6 “Northern Neck National Heritage Area Study Act”.

7 (b) STUDY.—The Secretary of the Interior (hereafter
8 referred to as “the Secretary”), in consultation with ap-

1 appropriate State historic preservation officers, State histor-
2 ical societies, and other appropriate organizations, shall
3 conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of des-
4 ignating the study area as the Northern Neck
5 National Heritage Area in the Commonwealth of Vir-
6 ginia.

7 (c) CRITERIA.—In conducting the study, the Sec-
8 retary shall apply the following criteria to determine the
9 suitability and feasibility of designating the study area
10 as a National Heritage Area:

11 (1) The area—

12 (A) has an assemblage of natural, historic,
13 cultural, educational, scenic, or recreational re-
14 sources that together are nationally important
15 to the heritage of the United States;

16 (B) represents distinctive aspects of the
17 heritage of the United States worthy of rec-
18 ognition, conservation, interpretation, and con-
19 tinuing use;

20 (C) is best managed as such an assemblage
21 through partnerships among public and private
22 entities at the local or regional level;

23 (D) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs,
24 and folklife that are a valuable part of the
25 heritage of the United States;

1 (E) provides outstanding opportunities to
2 conserve natural, historical, cultural, or scenic
3 features;

4 (F) provides outstanding recreational or
5 educational opportunities; and

6 (G) has resources and traditional uses that
7 have national importance.

8 (2) Residents, business interests, nonprofit or-
9 ganizations, and governments (including relevant
10 Federal land management agencies) within the pro-
11 posed area are involved in the planning and have
12 demonstrated significant support through letters and
13 other means for National Heritage
14 Areadesignation and management.

15 (3) The local coordinating entity responsible for
16 preparing and implementing the management plan is
17 identified.

18 (4) The proposed local coordinating entity and
19 units of government supporting the designation have
20 documented their commitment to work in partner-
21 ship to protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage,
22 and develop resources within the National Herit-
23 age Area.

24 (5) The proposed local coordinating entity has
25 developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines

1 the roles of all participants (including the Federal
2 Government) in the management of the National
3 Heritage Area.

4 (6) The proposal is consistent with continued
5 economic activity within the area.

6 (7) A conceptual boundary map has been devel-
7 oped and is supported by the public and partici-
8 pating Federal agencies.

9 (d) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study, the
10 Secretary shall consult with the managers of any Federal
11 land within the proposed National Heritage Area and
12 secure the concurrence of the managers with the findings
13 of the study before making a determination for des-
14 ignation.

15 (e) BOUNDARIES OF THE STUDY AREA.—The
16 study area referred to in this section shall be comprised
17 of the following:

18 (1) The part of Virginia between the Potomac
19 and the Rappahannock Rivers in eastern coastal Vir-
20 ginia.

21 (2) Westmoreland, Northumberland, Richmond,
22 King George, and Lancaster Counties, Virginia.

23 (3) Other areas that have heritage aspects
24 that are similar to those aspects that are in the

1 areas described in paragraphs (1) and (2) and which
2 are adjacent to or in the vicinity of those areas.

3 (f) REPORT.—The Secretary shall—

4 (1) review, comment on, and determine if the
5 study meets the criteria specified in this section for
6 designation as a National Heritage Area;

7 (2) consult with the Governor of the Common-
8 wealth of Virginia; and

9 (3) not later than 3 fiscal years after the date
10 on which funds are first made available for this sec-
11 tion, submit to the Committee on Natural Resources
12 of the House of Representatives and the Committee
13 on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a
14 report on the findings, conclusions and recommenda-
15 tions of the study, including—

16 (A) any comments received from the Gov-
17 ernor of the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

18 (B) a finding as to whether the proposed
19 National Heritage Area meets the criteria
20 for designation.

21 (g) DISAPPROVAL.—If the Secretary determines that
22 the proposed National Heritage Area does not meet
23 the criteria for designation, the Secretary shall include

- 1 within the study submitted under subsection (f)(3) a
- 2 description of the reasons for the determination.

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