

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3039

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 20, 2008

Mr. WEBB (for himself and Mr. WARNER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and 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. NORTHERN NECK NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA**

4 **STUDY AND REPORT.**

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

7 (b) STUDY.—The Secretary of the Interior, in con-
8 sultation with appropriate State historic preservation offi-

1 cers, States historical societies, and other appropriate or-
 2 ganizations, shall conduct a study regarding the suitability
 3 and feasibility of designating the study area described in
 4 subsection (c) as the Northern Neck National Heritage
 5 Area. The study shall include analysis, documentation,
 6 and determination regarding whether the study area—

7 (1) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and
 8 cultural resources that together represent distinctive
 9 aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition,
 10 conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, and
 11 are best managed through partnerships among pub-
 12 lic and private entities and by combining diverse and
 13 sometimes noncontiguous resources and active com-
 14 munities;

15 (2) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and
 16 folklife that are a valuable part of the national story;

17 (3) provides outstanding opportunities to con-
 18 serve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic features;

19 (4) provides outstanding recreational and edu-
 20 cational opportunities;

21 (5) contains resources important to the identi-
 22 fied theme or themes of the study area that retain
 23 a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpre-
 24 tation;

1 (6) includes residents, business interests, non-
2 profit organizations, and local and State govern-
3 ments that are involved in the planning, have devel-
4 oped a conceptual financial plan that outlines the
5 roles of all participants (including the Federal Gov-
6 ernment), and have demonstrated support for the
7 concept of a national heritage area;

8 (7) has a potential management entity to work
9 in partnership with residents, business interests,
10 nonprofit organizations, and local and State govern-
11 ments to develop a national heritage area consistent
12 with continued local and State economic activity;
13 and

14 (8) has a conceptual boundary map that is sup-
15 ported by the public.

16 (c) BOUNDARIES OF THE STUDY AREA.—The study
17 area referred to in subsection (b) shall be comprised of
18 the following:

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

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

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

1 scribed in paragraphs (1) and (2) and which are ad-
2 jacent to or in the vicinity of those areas.

3 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 3 fiscal years after the
4 date on which funds are first made available for this sec-
5 tion, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the Com-
6 mittee on Natural Resources of the House of Representa-
7 tives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
8 sources of the Senate a report on the findings, conclusions,
9 and recommendations of the study.

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