

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-2
OFFERED BY MR. McEACHIN OF VIRGINIA

At the end of the bill, add the following:

1 **TITLE IX—GREAT DISMAL**
2 **SWAMP NATIONAL HERITAGE**
3 **AREA ACT**

4 **SEC. 901. SHORT TITLE.**

5 This title may be cited as the “Great Dismal Swamp
6 National Heritage Area Act”.

7 **SEC. 902. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this title:

9 (1) **HERITAGE AREA.**—The term “Heritage
10 Area” means the Great Dismal Swamp National
11 Heritage Area.

12 (2) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
13 the Secretary of the Interior.

14 (3) **STATES.**—The term “States” means the
15 States of Virginia and North Carolina.

16 (4) **STUDY AREA.**—The term “study area”
17 means—

1 (A) the cities of Chesapeake, Norfolk,
2 Portsmouth, and Suffolk in the State of Vir-
3 ginia;

4 (B) Isle of Wight County in the State of
5 Virginia;

6 (C) Camden, Currituck, Gates, and
7 Pasquotank counties in the State of North
8 Carolina; and

9 (D) any other areas in the States that—

10 (i) have heritage aspects that are
11 similar to the areas described in subpara-
12 graphs (A), (B), or (C); and

13 (ii) are adjacent to, or in the vicinity
14 of, those areas.

15 **SEC. 903. STUDY.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
17 with State and local organizations and governmental agen-
18 cies, Tribal governments, non-profit organizations, and
19 other appropriate entities, shall conduct a study to assess
20 the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area
21 as a National Heritage Area, to be known as the “Great
22 Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area”.

23 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The study shall include anal-
24 ysis, documentation, and determinations on whether the
25 study area—

1 (1) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and
2 cultural resources that—

3 (A) represent distinctive aspects of the
4 people and cultures of the United States;

5 (B) are worthy of recognition, conserva-
6 tion, interpretation, and continuing use; and

7 (C) would be best managed—

8 (i) through partnerships among public
9 and private entities; and

10 (ii) by linking diverse and sometimes
11 noncontiguous resources and active com-
12 munities;

13 (2) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and
14 folklife that are a valuable part of the story of the
15 United States;

16 (3) provides outstanding opportunities—

17 (A) to conserve natural, historic, cultural,
18 or scenic features; and

19 (B) for recreation and education;

20 (4) contains resources that—

21 (A) are important to any identified themes
22 of the study area; and

23 (B) retain a degree of integrity capable of
24 supporting interpretation;

1 (5) includes residents, business interests, non-
2 profit organizations, and State, local, and Tribal
3 governments, and other appropriate entities that—

4 (A) are involved in the planning of the
5 Heritage Area;

6 (B) have developed a conceptual financial
7 plan that outlines the roles of all participants in
8 the Heritage Area, including the Federal Gov-
9 ernment; and

10 (C) have demonstrated support for the des-
11 ignation of the Heritage Area;

12 (6) has a potential management entity to work
13 in partnership with the individuals and entities de-
14 scribed in paragraph (5) to develop the Heritage
15 Area while encouraging State and local economic ac-
16 tivity; and

17 (7) has a conceptual boundary map that is sup-
18 ported by the public.

19 **SEC. 904. REPORT.**

20 Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds
21 are first made available to carry out this title, the Sec-
22 retary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Re-
23 sources of the House of Representatives and the Com-
24 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate
25 a report that describes—

1 (1) the findings of the study under section 3;
2 and
3 (2) any conclusions and recommendations of the
4 Secretary.

