To designate additions to the Rough Mountain Wilderness and the Rich Hole Wilderness of the George Washington National Forest, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 28, 2019

Mr. Kaine (for himself and Mr. Warner) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To designate additions to the Rough Mountain Wilderness and the Rich Hole Wilderness of the George Washington National Forest, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Virginia Wilderness Additions Act of 2019”.
SEC. 2. ADDITIONS TO ROUGH MOUNTAIN AND RICH HOLE WILDERNESSES.

Section 1 of Public Law 100–326 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 102 Stat. 584; 114 Stat. 2057; 123 Stat. 1002) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(21) ROUGH MOUNTAIN ADDITION.—Certain land in the George Washington National Forest comprising approximately 1,000 acres, as generally depicted as the ‘Rough Mountain Addition’ on the map entitled ‘GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOREST – South half – Alternative I – Selected Alternative Management Prescriptions – Land and Resources Management Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement’ and dated March 4, 2014, which is incorporated in the Rough Mountain Wilderness Area designated by paragraph (1).

“(22) RICH HOLE ADDITION.—

“(A) DESIGNATION.—Certain land in the George Washington National Forest comprising approximately 4,600 acres, as generally depicted as the ‘Rich Hole Addition’ on the map entitled ‘GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOREST – South half – Alternative I – Selected Alternative Management Prescriptions – Land and Resources Management Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement’ and...
dated March 4, 2014, which shall be incor-
porated in the Rich Hole Wilderness Area des-
ignated by paragraph (2) on the earlier of—

“(i) the date on which the Secretary
of Agriculture publishes in the Federal
Register notice that the activities per-
mitted under subparagraph (C) have been
completed; and

“(ii) the date that is 2 years after the
date of enactment of the Virginia Wilder-
ness Additions Act of 2019.

“(B) MANAGEMENT.—Except as provided
in subparagraph (C), the Secretary shall man-
age the wilderness area designated under sub-
paragraph (A) in accordance with the Wilder-
ness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

“(C) WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AC-
TIVITIES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—To enhance nat-
ural ecosystems within the Rich Hole Addi-
tion by implementing certain activities to
improve water quality and aquatic passage,
as described in the Forest Service docu-
ment entitled ‘Decision Notice for the
Lower Cowpasture Restoration and Man-
agement Project’ and dated December 2015, the Secretary of Agriculture may use motorized equipment and mechanized transport in the Rich Hole Addition under subparagraph (A) until the date on which the Rich Hole Addition is incorporated into the Rich Hole Wilderness under that subparagraph.

“(ii) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out clause (i), the Secretary of Agriculture, to the maximum extent practicable, shall use the minimum tool or administrative practice necessary to carry out that clause with the least amount of adverse impact on wilderness character and resources.”.