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TITLE: STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ROBB (for himself and Mr. Warner):

S. 2865. A bill to designate certain land of the National Forest System located in the State of Virginia as **wilderness**; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

virginia **wilderness** act of 2000

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to introduce a bill that will protect one of the most beautiful areas of Virginia. Today, with my colleague John Warner, I am introducing the Virginia **Wilderness** Act of 2000. This Act will provide **wilderness** status to two exceptional areas of Virginia. These areas, the "Three Ridges" and "The Priest" have long been recognized for their outstanding vistas, deep valleys and rugged beauty.

After receiving **wilderness** designation these areas will remain available for hunting, fishing, hiking, picnicking, and other traditional uses. **Wilderness** protections will ensure that "The Three Ridges" and "The Priest" remain available for the full enjoyment of our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

This action is now fully supported by the Virginia delegation, and the communities closest to the proposed **wilderness** areas. I hope we will see quick action on this bill through the committee and that we can move it to floor and complete action on the bill this year.

I ask unanimous consent that this bill be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

S. 2865

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** Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF **WILDERNESS** AREAS.

Section 1 of the Act entitled "An Act to designate certain National Forest System lands in the States of Virginia and West Virginia as **wilderness** areas" (Public Law 100-326; 102 Stat. 584) is amended--

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking "and" at the end;
(2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:
"(7) certain land in the George Washington National Forest, comprising approximately 6,500 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled The Priest **Wilderness** Study Area', dated June 6, 2000, to be known as the Priest **Wilderness** Area'; and

"(8) certain land in the George Washington National Forest, comprising approximately 4,800 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled The Three Ridges **Wilderness** Study Area', dated June 6, 2000, to be known as the Three Ridges **Wilderness** Area."

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today in support of legislation to add two areas in my State to the National **Wilderness** Preservation System. These areas, known as The Priest and the Three Ridges, are located in the George Washington National Forest and comprise approximately 10,500 acres.

The Commonwealth of Virginia is blessed with rich geographic diversity. From the Chesapeake Bay in the East to the Appalachian Mountains in the West, residents of the state and visitors alike are able to participate in a broad range of activities not often found in other areas of the country.

The Priest and the Three Ridges, in particular, offer unique opportunities for visitors to enjoy scenic views, interaction with wildlife, hiking, fishing, and other types of outdoor recreation. These areas need to be protected from development, and this legislation would ensure that they remain pristine for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Mr. President, I look forward to the designation of The Priest and Three Ridges as **wilderness** through the swift passage of this bill.

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself, Mr. Jeffords, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Dodd, Mr. Domenici, Mr. Kerry, Mr. Bond, Mr. Voinovich, Mr. Lautenberg, Mr. Cochran, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Smith of Oregon, Mr. Bingaman, Mr. L. Chafee, Mr. Durbin, Mr. Murkowski, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Robb, Mr. Rockefeller, Mr. Wellstone, Mrs. Feinstein, Ms. Mikulski, Ms. Snowe, Mrs. Boxer, Mr. Kerrey, and Mr. Warner):