

S.1.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

June 12, 2024

Mr. Anka of Lincoln (for himself) introduced the following bill

A BILL

To combine the Red River Gorge Geological Area with Daniel Boone National Forest into one National Park, provide necessary funding for upkeep, staffing, and establish an ecological and environmental education program supervised by local universities.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

SHORT TITLE— “Red River Gorge and Daniel Boone National Park Act of 2024”

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS—For the purposes of this Act:

1. "National Park" refers to the combined Red River Gorge Geological Area and Daniel Boone National Forest.
2. "Secretary" refers to the Secretary of the Interior.
3. "Local Universities" refers to universities located in the state of Kentucky that will voluntarily supervise the ecological and environmental education program

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF RED RIVER GORGE AND DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL PARK.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT—There is established the Red River Gorge and Daniel Boone National Park (referred to in this Act as the “National Park”) as a unit of the National Park System..

(b) BOUNDARIES—The boundaries of the National Park shall encompass all areas currently designated as the Red River Gorge Geological Area and the Daniel Boone National Forest.

SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) MANAGEMENT—The National Park shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with this Act and the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System.

(b) FUNDING—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary for the management and operation of the National Park, including maintenance, staffing, and educational programs.

SEC. 5. STAFFING AND UPKEEP.

(a) STAFFING—The Secretary shall ensure that the National Park is adequately staffed with qualified personnel to manage and protect its resources.

(b) UPKEEP—The Secretary shall ensure that the National Park is maintained in a manner that preserves its natural, cultural, and historical resources.

SEC. 6. ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT—The Secretary shall establish an ecological and environmental education program within the National Park.

(b) SUPERVISION—The program shall be supervised by local universities, in coordination with the National Park Service, to promote research, education, and public awareness about the park’s ecological and environmental significance.

(c) FUNDING—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to implement and sustain the ecological and environmental education program.

SEC. 7. COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL UNIVERSITIES.

(a) AGREEMENTS: The Secretary shall enter into cooperative agreements with local universities to develop and implement the ecological and environmental education program.

(b) RESEARCH AND EDUCATION: The agreements shall include provisions for research opportunities, educational activities, and community outreach programs that leverage the expertise and resources of the universities.

SEC. 8. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT—The Secretary shall submit an annual report to Congress detailing the status of the National Park, including management activities, staffing levels, maintenance needs, and the progress of the ecological and environmental education program.

(b) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY—The report shall be made available to the public through the National Park Service website.

SEC. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) EFFECTIVE DATE—This Act shall take effect on the date of its enactment.
