

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT FOR  
H.R. 4909  
OFFERED BY MR. LAMBORN OF COLORADO**

Page 567, insert after line 6 the following (and amend the table of contents accordingly):

**1 SEC. 1256. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) In exercising its right of self-defense during  
4 the Six Day War in 1967, Israel seized from Syria  
5 the Golan Heights, a strategically important plateau  
6 overlooking northeastern Israel.

7 (2) Modern Syria, born in 1946, has descended  
8 into brutal civil war, with President Bashar al-Assad  
9 now controlling less than 25 percent of the country.

10 (3) Despite recent advances by Syrian govern-  
11 ment troops, the Islamic State and other Sunni  
12 Islamists continue to control much of the territory  
13 President Assad once governed.

14 (4) Since the beginning of the Syrian conflict in  
15 2011, the violence has taken at least 250,000 lives  
16 to date.

17 (5) Between 1 million and 1.5 million people  
18 have been wounded.

1           (6) More than 5 million refugees have fled  
2 Syria to neighboring countries and to Europe.

3           (7) It is estimated that an additional 7 million  
4 people are internally displaced persons.

5           (8) According to the United Nations Office for  
6 the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, more  
7 than 13.5 million Syrians are in need of humani-  
8 tarian assistance – they do not have access to ade-  
9 quate drinking water, are unable to meet their basic  
10 food needs, and more than 2 million children out of  
11 school.

12           (9) The warring parties have compounded the  
13 problem by refusing humanitarian agencies access to  
14 civilians in need.

15           (10) A functioning nation-state is far from  
16 being constructed out of the currently warring  
17 Alawite, Shia, Sunni, Kurd, and Druze factions.

18           (11) Until the Six Day War in 1967, Syria  
19 used a heavily fortified Golan as a platform to fire  
20 at Israeli villages below.

21           (12) Damascus also permitted the Palestinian  
22 Liberation Organization to use the Golan as a stag-  
23 ing ground for terrorism.

24           (13) In the immediate aftermath of the Six Day  
25 War, Israel offered to negotiate the status of all the

1 territories it had seized—which included the West  
2 Bank from Jordan and the Gaza Strip and Sinai Pe-  
3 ninsula from Egypt. Syria, along with Israel’s other  
4 Arab neighbors, roundly rejected the offer.

5 (14) Since 1992, four Israeli prime ministers—  
6 Yitzhak Rabin and Ehud Barak, Ehud Olmert, and  
7 Benjamin Netanyahu—have sought to achieve peace  
8 with Syria in exchange for withdrawing from parts  
9 or all of the Golan Heights. All initiatives have  
10 failed.

11 (15) Since being under Israeli control, the  
12 Golan has become a thriving site of agriculture, in-  
13 dustry, and tourism.

14 (16) The Golan is home to approximately  
15 20,000 Jewish Israelis, as well as 20,000 Druze,  
16 who speak Arabic and practice their own distinctive  
17 religion freely under Israeli control.

18 (17) The peace and security of Israel is in the  
19 United States’ national security interest.

20 (18) The region has been stable and the attacks  
21 against Israel have significantly decreased since  
22 Israel has controlled the Golan.

23 (19) The Golan Heights must not come under  
24 the control of Islamic State jihadists, Hezbollah or  
25 other terrorist groups.

1           (20) Israel has a legitimate territorial claim to  
2           the Golan Heights, and Israeli law has applied to  
3           the Golan for almost 35 years.

4           (21) Israel has exercised its authority in a man-  
5           ner that suits all the residents of the territory.

6           (22) International law favors stability, order,  
7           and peace.

8           (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
9           gress that it is in the United States' national security in-  
10          terest for Israel to maintain control of the Golan Heights.

