

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-
31
OFFERED BY MISS GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN OF PUERTO
RICO

Page 407, after line 25, insert the following:

1 SEC. 10310. RECOGNITION OF THE ARECIBO OBSERVATORY.

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

3 (1) The Department of Defense began devel-
4 oping the Arecibo Observatory located in Barrio
5 Esperanza, Arecibo, Puerto Rico, during the 1950s,
6 and its characteristic instrument, a large radio tele-
7 scope of 305 meters in diameter was completed in
8 1963.

9 (2) The facility was later owned by the National
10 Science Foundation, and supported by the National
11 Aeronautics and Space Administration and various
12 university partners.

13 (3) The Arecibo Observatory’s 305-meter fixed
14 spherical radio telescope, was the world’s largest sin-
15 gle-dish radio telescope until the Five-Hundred-
16 Meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope located in
17 Gizhou, China, began observing in 2016.

1 (4) The 305-meter radio telescope made unpar-
2 alleled contributions to the fields of radio astronomy,
3 planetary, and atmospheric sciences, and played a
4 role in inspiring thousands of students in Puerto
5 Rico, the Nation, and the world to pursue careers in
6 STEM fields through the Arecibo Observatory Edu-
7 cation and Public Outreach Programs.

8 (5) The radio telescope significantly advanced
9 the field of radio astronomy, including the first indi-
10 rect detection of gravitational waves, the first detec-
11 tion of extrasolar planets, innumerable contributions
12 to the field of time domain astronomy and the study
13 of the interstellar medium, and played a key role in
14 the search for extraterrestrial intelligence.

15 (6) The Arecibo Observatory had the best plan-
16 etary radar system in the world, used by the Na-
17 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration for
18 near-Earth object detection and was an essential
19 part of the agency's planetary defense program.

20 (7) The planetary radar at the Arecibo Observ-
21 atory has contributed fundamentally and signifi-
22 cantly to the knowledge of the solar system.

23 (8) The Arecibo Observatory's Incoherent Scat-
24 ter Radar and supporting facilities have provided
25 fundamental understanding of the ionosphere and

1 upper atmosphere, and the interface between the at-
2 mosphere and space that protects the planet from
3 solar wind, meteors, and other potential threats.

4 (9) December 1, 2021, marks the 1-year anni-
5 versary of the uncontrolled collapse sustained by the
6 radio telescope after a series of cable failures in
7 tower 4.

8 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
9 gress that the Congress—

10 (1) acknowledges the loss of the Arecibo Ob-
11 servatory’s radio telescope due to its collapse and its
12 implications for the loss of a unique world-class mul-
13 tidisciplinary science facility which conducted re-
14 search in the areas of space and atmospheric
15 sciences, radar astronomy and planetary sciences,
16 astronomy, and astrophysics;

17 (2) acknowledges that the uncontrolled collapse
18 of the 305-meter radio telescope represents a loss of
19 astronomical observation capabilities, scientific re-
20 search and development, planetary defense capabili-
21 ties, and applied science capabilities for the United
22 States;

23 (3) recognizes the rich scientific, educational,
24 and economic benefits that the Arecibo Telescope

1 has made to the people of Puerto Rico, the Nation,
2 and the world;

3 (4) recognizes the work and contributions made
4 by the thousands of dedicated staff who have sup-
5 ported the Arecibo Observatory for close to 6 dec-
6 ades;

7 (5) commends the National Science Foundation
8 for convening a virtual workshop in June 2021, to
9 explore ideas for future scientific and educational ac-
10 tivities at the Arecibo Observatory; and

11 (6) encourages the National Science Founda-
12 tion, the National Aeronautics and Space Adminis-
13 tration, and other agencies to explore opportunities
14 for strengthening and expanding the role of the Are-
15 cibo Observatory in Puerto Rico through education,
16 outreach, and diversity programs, and future re-
17 search capabilities and technology at the site.

