AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 115–70
OFFERED BY MR. BERA OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle F of title XII, add the following new section:

SEC. 12. STRATEGY TO PROTECT UNITED STATES INTERESTS IN THE ARCTIC REGION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States has important economic, security, and national defense interests in the Arctic region.

(2) The United States Government has issued several key reports and strategies on the Arctic region over the last four years, including—

(A) the Department of Defense Report to Congress on Strategy to Protect United States National Security Interests in the Arctic Region (December 2016);

(B) the 2015 Year In Review: Progress Report on the Implementation of the National Strategy for the Arctic Region (March 2016);

(C) the Implementation Plan for the National Strategy for the Arctic Region (January 30, 2014); and
(D) the National Strategy for the Arctic Region (May 2013), which set forth the United States Government’s strategic priorities for the Arctic region.

(3) According to the Council on Foreign Relations, the Arctic region is warming at double the rate of the rest of the world, opening new routes for ships and development of natural resources throughout the Arctic region.

(4) The rapidly warming Arctic region threatens fisheries and wildlife habitat, existing infrastructure and communities throughout Alaska, including increased vulnerability to coastal erosion. Alaska native communities are particularly vulnerable to the changing climate.

(5) Given these developments, the United States needs to bolster its infrastructure and assets in the Arctic region to safeguard its strategic interests, defend its national borders, protect the environment, and maintain its scientific and technological leadership.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President should continue to convene the Arctic Executive Steering Committee established
on January 21, 2015, pursuant to Executive Order 13689 (80 Fed. Reg. 6425; relating to enhancing coordination of national efforts in the Arctic); and

(2) the United States should ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in order to allow the United States to secure its claim to offshore resources present along the Arctic’s extended continental shelf.

(c) STRATEGY TO PROTECT UNITED STATES INTERESTS IN THE ARCTIC REGION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall develop and submit to Congress a strategy to protect United States interests in the Arctic region.

(2) GOALS.—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall include the following goals:

(A) Improve telecommunications, navigation, ocean and coastal mapping, and Coast Guard and other infrastructure to support a sustained security and emergency response presence for the State of Alaska.

(B) Direct the United States representative to the Arctic Council to use the voice and vote of the United States to conduct increased
confidence-building and cooperative security
measures with the other member countries of
the Arctic Council.

(C) Support climate resilience efforts
across the Arctic region.

(D) Sustain robust research funding to un-
derstand the ongoing climate changes in the
Arctic region and the global impact of such
changes.

(3) USE OF PRIOR REPORTS AND STRATE-
gies.—The strategy required under paragraph (1)
shall be informed by the reports and strategies de-
scribed in subsection (a)(2) and other relevant
United States Government reports and strategies re-
garding the Arctic region.