

**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:

**1 SEC. 12\_\_ . STRATEGY TO PROTECT UNITED STATES INTER-**  
**2 ESTS IN THE ARCTIC REGION.**

**3 (a) FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

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

**7 (2)** The United States Government has issued  
**8 several key reports and strategies on the Arctic re-**  
**9 gion over the last four years, including—**

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

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

**17 (C)** the Implementation Plan for the Na-  
**18 tional Strategy for the Arctic Region (January**  
**19 30, 2014); and**

1 (D) the National Strategy for the Arctic  
2 Region (May 2013), which set forth the United  
3 States Government's strategic priorities for the  
4 Arctic region.

5 (3) According to the Council on Foreign Rela-  
6 tions, the Arctic region is warming at double the  
7 rate of the rest of the world, opening new routes for  
8 ships and development of natural resources through-  
9 out the Arctic region.

10 (4) The rapidly warming Arctic region threat-  
11 ens fisheries and wildlife habitat, existing infrastruc-  
12 ture and communities throughout Alaska, including  
13 increased vulnerability to coastal erosion. Alaska na-  
14 tive communities are particularly vulnerable to the  
15 changing climate.

16 (5) Given these developments, the United  
17 States needs to bolster its infrastructure and assets  
18 in the Arctic region to safeguard its strategic inter-  
19 ests, defend its national borders, protect the environ-  
20 ment, and maintain its scientific and technological  
21 leadership.

22 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
23 gress that—

24 (1) the President should continue to convene  
25 the Arctic Executive Steering Committee established

1 on January 21, 2015, pursuant to Executive Order  
2 13689 (80 Fed. Reg. 6425; relating to enhancing co-  
3 ordination of national efforts in the Arctic); and

4 (2) the United States should ratify the United  
5 Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in order  
6 to allow the United States to secure its claim to off-  
7 shore resources present along the Arctic's extended  
8 continental shelf.

9 (c) STRATEGY TO PROTECT UNITED STATES INTER-  
10 ESTS IN THE ARCTIC REGION.—

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

16 (2) GOALS.—The strategy required under para-  
17 graph (1) shall include the following goals:

18 (A) Improve telecommunications, naviga-  
19 tion, ocean and coastal mapping, and Coast  
20 Guard and other infrastructure to support a  
21 sustained security and emergency response  
22 presence for the State of Alaska.

23 (B) Direct the United States representa-  
24 tive to the Arctic Council to use the voice and  
25 vote of the United States to conduct increased

1 confidence-building and cooperative security  
2 measures with the other member countries of  
3 the Arctic Council.

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

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

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

