

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118-

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OFFERED BY MR. BERA OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle B of title XVII, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 17___. REPORT ON PROMOTION OF UNITED STATES**
2 **POLICIES ON EFFECTS OF SEA-LEVEL RISE**
3 **ON STATEHOOD AND MARITIME ZONES.**

4 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the
5 United States that—

6 (1) sea-level rise driven by human-induced cli-
7 mate change should not cause any country to lose its
8 statehood or its membership in the United Nations,
9 its specialized agencies, or other international orga-
10 nizations;

11 (2) sea-level rise driven by human-induced cli-
12 mate change should not diminish the maritime zones
13 on which island States and other coastal States rely,
14 including for food and livelihoods;

15 (3) the United States is committed to pre-
16 serving the legitimacy of maritime zones, and associ-
17 ated exclusive rights to resources and entitlements,
18 that have been established consistent with inter-

1 national law as reflected in the United Nations Con-
2 vention on the Law of the Sea and that are not
3 subsequently updated to reflect sea-level rise caused
4 by climate change;

5 (4) countries adopt policies that reflect the ap-
6 proach of the Pacific Islands Forum and the Alli-
7 ance of Small Island States to maintain maritime
8 zones delineated in accordance with international
9 law as reflected by the United Nations Convention
10 on the Law of the Sea, and preserve the rights and
11 entitlements that flow from them, in the context of
12 sea-level rise driven by human-induced climate
13 change;

14 (5) countries adopt policies that reflect the ap-
15 proach of the Pacific Islands Forum and the Alli-
16 ance of Small Island States to affirm that inter-
17 national law supports a presumption of continuity of
18 statehood and does not contemplate its demise in the
19 context of sea-level rise driven by human-induced cli-
20 mate change; and

21 (6) the United States will work with countries
22 to establish policies to promote the continuity of
23 statehood and the preservation of maritime zones de-
24 lined in accordance with the United Nations Con-
25 vention on the Law of the Sea that cannot be chal-

1 lenged or reduced by sea-level rise driven by human-
2 induced climate change.

3 (b) REPORT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
6 retary of State and Secretary of Defense, in con-
7 sultation with the heads of other relevant Federal
8 agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congres-
9 sional committees a report on the efforts of the
10 United States to promote United States policies on
11 the effects of sea-level rise on statehood and mari-
12 time zones. Such report shall include each of the fol-
13 lowing:

14 (A) A comprehensive review of initiatives
15 the Department of State, Department of De-
16 fense, and other relevant departments and
17 agencies are taking to promote the adoption of
18 United States policies on sea-level rise and
19 statehood and maritime zones by countries and
20 international organizations.

21 (B) An assessment of how the Department
22 of State, Department of Defense, and other rel-
23 evant departments and agencies are establishing
24 new or expanding existing bilateral and multi-
25 lateral efforts to encourage adoption of United

1 States policies on sea-level rise and statehood
2 and maritime zones in international fora.

3 (C) An assessment of any legal, policy,
4 logistical, financial, or administrative barriers
5 to promoting the adoption of United States
6 policies on sea-level rise and statehood and
7 maritime zones.

8 (D) A list of countries and international
9 organizations that have adopted policies that re-
10 flect the approach of the United States on the
11 effects of sea-level rise on statehood and mari-
12 time zones.

13 (2) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required
14 under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassi-
15 fied form, but may include a classified annex.

16 (3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
17 TEES.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-
18 gressional committees” means—

19 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
20 the Committee on Armed Services of the House
21 of Representatives; and

22 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
23 and the Committee on Armed Services of the
24 Senate.

