AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT

116–63

OFFERED BY MR. BEYER OF VIRGINIA

Page 358, line 23, redesignate subsection (a) as subsection (c).

Page 358, after line 22, insert the following:

(a) REPEAL.—Section 2 of the Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 2000 (30 U.S.C. 2001) is repealed.

(b) DEVELOPMENT.—Section 4 of the Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 2000 (30 U.S.C. 2003) is amended by striking “and development” in each place it occurs.

Page 359, line 4, through page 360, line 8, strike ““(1) ASSISTANCE AND COORDINATION.—” and all that follows through “from methane hydrate reservoirs” and insert the following:

“(1) ASSISTANCE AND COORDINATION.—In carrying out the program of methane hydrate research authorized by this section, the Secretary may award grants, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements to—
“(A) conduct research to assess and mitigate the environmental impact of natural methane hydrate degassing;

“(B) conduct research to identify the environmental and health impacts of methane hydrate development;

“(C) assess and develop technologies to mitigate environmental impacts of natural methane hydrate degassing and to mitigate environmental impacts of the exploration and commercial development of methane hydrates, including through the avoidance of the use of seismic testing; or

“(D) expand education and training programs in methane hydrate research through fellowships or other means for graduate education and training.

“(2) ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND RESEARCH.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, Secretary of Commerce, and Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a long-term environmental monitoring and research program to study methane hydrates.
“(B) NOTICE AND COMMENT.—In developing a plan for long-term environmental monitoring and research under subparagraph (A), the Secretaries shall publish in the Federal Register a notice providing for an opportunity for the public to comment on such plan prior to conducting monitoring and research under such subparagraph.”.

Page 359, lines 14 and 18 redesignate subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively.

Page 359, after line 13, insert the following:

(d) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.—Section 4(e) of the Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 2000 (30 U.S.C. 2003(e)) is amended to read as follows:

“(e) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.—In carrying out subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall—

“(1) facilitate and develop partnerships among government, industrial enterprises, and institutions of higher education to research methane hydrates;

“(2) ensure that the data and information developed through the program are accessible and widely disseminated as needed and appropriate;
“(3) promote cooperation among agencies that are developing technologies that may hold promise for methane hydrate research;

“(4) report annually to Congress on the results of actions taken to carry out this chapter; and

“(5) ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, greater participation by the Department of Energy in international cooperative efforts.”.