

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:

1 (a) REPEAL.—Section 2 of the Methane Hydrate Re-
2 search and Development Act of 2000 (30 U.S.C. 2001)
3 is repealed.

4 (b) DEVELOPMENT.—Section 4 of the Methane Hy-
5 drate Research and Development Act of 2000 (30 U.S.C.
6 2003) is amended by striking “and development” in each
7 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:

8 “(1) ASSISTANCE AND COORDINATION.—In car-
9 rying out the program of methane hydrate research
10 authorized by this section, the Secretary may award
11 grants, or enter into contracts or cooperative agree-
12 ments to—

1 “(A) conduct research to assess and miti-
2 gate the environmental impact of natural meth-
3 ane hydrate degassing;

4 “(B) conduct research to identify the envi-
5 ronmental and health impacts of methane hy-
6 drate development;

7 “(C) assess and develop technologies to
8 mitigate environmental impacts of natural
9 methane hydrate degassing and to mitigate en-
10 vironmental impacts of the exploration and
11 commercial development of methane hydrates,
12 including through the avoidance of the use of
13 seismic testing; or

14 “(D) expand education and training pro-
15 grams in methane hydrate research through fel-
16 lowships or other means for graduate education
17 and training.

18 “(2) ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND RE-
19 SEARCH.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, Sec-
21 retary of Commerce, and Secretary of the Inte-
22 rior shall conduct a long-term environmental
23 monitoring and research program to study
24 methane hydrates.

1 “(B) NOTICE AND COMMENT.—In devel-
2 oping a plan for long-term environmental moni-
3 toring and research under subparagraph (A),
4 the Secretaries shall publish in the Federal
5 Register a notice providing for an opportunity
6 for the public to comment on such plan prior to
7 conducting monitoring and research under such
8 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:

9 (d) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.—Section
10 4(e) of the Methane Hydrate Research and Development
11 Act of 2000 (30 U.S.C. 2003(e)) is amended to read as
12 follows:

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

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

18 “(2) ensure that the data and information de-
19 veloped through the program are accessible and
20 widely disseminated as needed and appropriate;

1 “(3) promote cooperation among agencies that
2 are developing technologies that may hold promise
3 for methane hydrate research;

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

6 “(5) ensure, to the maximum extent prac-
7 ticable, greater participation by the Department of
8 Energy in international cooperative efforts.”.

