

**AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119-33
OFFERED BY MRS. BICE OF OKLAHOMA**

At the end of subtitle B of title XVII, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 17__ . AMERICA'S LIVING LIBRARY PROJECT.**

2 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

3 (1) CONTROL.—The term “control” means hav-
4 ing the ability, directly or indirectly, to determine
5 (without regard to whether exercised through 1 or
6 more corporate structures) the manner in which an
7 entity conducts activities, through any means, in-
8 cluding—

9 (A) ownership interest;

10 (B) authority to commit the real or finan-
11 cial assets of the entity;

12 (C) position as a director, officer, or part-
13 ner of the entity; or

14 (D) contractual arrangement.

15 (2) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”
16 means the Department of the Interior.

17 (3) FOREIGN ENTITY OF CONCERN.—The term
18 “foreign entity of concern” has the meaning given

1 the term in section 40207 of the Infrastructure In-
2 vestment and Jobs Act (42 U.S.C. 18741).

3 (4) HIGH-PRIORITY SPECIES.—The term “high-
4 priority species” has the meaning given the term by
5 the Secretary, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Sec-
6 retary of Health and Human Services, and the Sec-
7 retary of the Smithsonian Institution, based on fac-
8 tors such as the conservation status, economic, cul-
9 tural, or ecological value, biomedical or public health
10 relevance, and rarity of the species.

11 (5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
12 has the meaning given the term “Indian tribe” in
13 section 102 of the Federally Recognized Indian
14 Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5130).

15 (6) OFFICE.—The term “office” means the of-
16 fice established or designated under subsection
17 (e)(1).

18 (7) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means
19 the America’s Living Library Project established
20 under subsection (b).

21 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
22 the Secretary of the Interior (acting through the Di-
23 rector of the United States Geological Survey).

1 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
2 a pilot program, to be known as the “America’s Living
3 Library Project”.

4 (c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program is to fa-
5 cilitate the collection of new genomic data from species
6 that are found in units of the National Park System.

7 (d) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program,
9 the Secretary shall coordinate—

10 (A) the collection, cataloging, and whole-
11 genome sequencing of samples from animals,
12 plants, fungi, and microbes found on selected
13 units of the National Park System, subject to—

14 (i) applicable permitting and consulta-
15 tion requirements under the Endangered
16 Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et
17 seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16
18 U.S.C. 703 et seq.), and the Marine Mam-
19 mal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C.
20 1361 et seq.);

21 (ii) applicable permitting requirements
22 under section 42 of title 18, United States
23 Code; and

1 (iii) applicable requirements under the
2 Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16
3 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.);

4 (B) the establishment of a publicly avail-
5 able genomic database for resulting genomic
6 data collected under the program, including
7 long-read sequence data, genome assemblies,
8 annotations, and associated metadata, except
9 that the database shall withhold from public re-
10 lease any personally identifiable information
11 and any sensitive collection locality information,
12 including precise collection site locations or co-
13 ordinates, as determined to be appropriate by
14 the Secretary to protect personnel, specimens,
15 and resources;

16 (C) as the Secretary determines to be ap-
17 propriate, the integration of the Integrated
18 Taxonomic Information System and any other
19 systems, such as the PLANTS Database of the
20 Department of Agriculture and the World Reg-
21 ister of Marine Species, to provide scientific
22 name concepts for organisms to accompany the
23 genomic database; and

24 (D) the long-term storage of samples col-
25 lected under the program.

1 (2) PARTNER AGENCIES.—In carrying out para-
2 graph (1), the Secretary shall coordinate with the
3 Director of the National Park Service, the Secretary
4 of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Smithsonian In-
5 stitution, the Director of the National Center for
6 Biotechnology Information of the National Institutes
7 of Health, and any other appropriate Federal agen-
8 cy.

9 (e) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM OFFICE.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
11 a new, or designate an existing, office within the
12 United States Geological Survey to administer the
13 program.

14 (2) STAFF.—The Secretary shall hire staff to
15 carry out the program in accordance with this sec-
16 tion.

17 (3) AUTHORITY.—The office shall have the au-
18 thority—

19 (A) to carry out the program in accordance
20 with this section;

21 (B) subject to such terms as the Secretary
22 may determine appropriate, to enter into and
23 implement any contract, lease, cooperative
24 agreement, or other transaction that is nec-
25 essary to carry out the program with—

1 (i) any Federal entity, including the
2 Department of Agriculture and the De-
3 partment of Defense; or

4 (ii) any public or private person or en-
5 tity;

6 (C) to develop mechanisms to receive in-
7 kind contributions from biotechnology compa-
8 nies, subject to requirements that the mecha-
9 nisms developed shall—

10 (i) limit in-kind contributions to the
11 provision of resources to carry out the pro-
12 gram, such as materials, instrumentation,
13 or technological capabilities (such as
14 deoxyribonucleic acid sequencing); and

15 (ii) include vetting for, and prevention
16 of, conflicts of interest; and

17 (D) to use, subject to the consent of the
18 applicable Federal entity, the services, per-
19 sonnel, and facilities of any other Federal enti-
20 ty.

21 (4) PARTNERSHIPS WITH EXISTING EXPERT OR-
22 GANIZATIONS.—In carrying out the program, the
23 Secretary may enter into relevant arrangements, in-
24 cluding contracts and cooperative agreements with
25 organizations that possess demonstrated expertise

1 relevant to the purposes of the program, including
2 expertise in genomic sequencing and sample collec-
3 tion and cataloging. Such organizations may include
4 the Smithsonian Institution, institutions of higher
5 education, museums, natural history collections, re-
6 search institutions, and nonprofit organizations, as
7 determined appropriate by the Secretary.

8 (f) SELECTION OF UNITS OF THE NATIONAL PARK
9 SYSTEM.—

10 (1) INITIAL SELECTION.—Not later than 180
11 days after the date of enactment of this Act, based
12 on the criteria described in paragraph (2), the Sec-
13 retary shall select 5 units of the National Park Sys-
14 tem at which to carry out the program initially.

15 (2) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Secretary, in
16 consultation with the Director of the National Park
17 Service, shall select units of the National Park Sys-
18 tem under this subsection based on objective criteria
19 that take into account—

20 (A) the biological landscape of the unit of
21 the National Park System;

22 (B) the feasibility of implementation at,
23 and operational readiness of, the unit of the
24 National Park System;

1 (C) the quality of the education and public
2 engagement opportunities at the unit of the Na-
3 tional Park System;

4 (D) the research value and alignment of
5 the unit of the National Park System with pro-
6 gram priorities, including, where appropriate,
7 genomic sequencing and associated metadata
8 needs;

9 (E) the geographic and ecological diversity
10 across the National Park System; and

11 (F) any other criteria established by the
12 Secretary.

13 (3) ADDITIONAL UNITS OF THE NATIONAL
14 PARK SYSTEM.—Not later than 2 years after the
15 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall se-
16 lect, in accordance with the criteria under paragraph
17 (2), an additional 20 units of the National Park
18 System at which to carry out the program.

19 (4) NOTICE OF SELECTIONS.—Not later than
20 15 days after the date on which a unit of the Na-
21 tional Park System is selected under this subsection,
22 the Secretary shall make publicly available on a De-
23 partment website a notice that—

1 (A) lists any units of the National Park
2 System selected as part of that selection pro-
3 cess; and

4 (B) provides, for each unit of the National
5 Park System selected as part of that selection
6 process, a brief statement of reasons describing
7 how the selection satisfies the criteria described
8 in paragraph (2).

9 (g) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—

10 (1) DATA STANDARDS.—In carrying out the
11 program, the Secretary shall—

12 (A) leverage existing and emerging data
13 standards to ensure—

14 (i) high-quality data are obtained
15 under the program; and

16 (ii) program data are considered usa-
17 ble and interoperable, with appropriate
18 metadata to be included;

19 (B) ensure that data outputs under the
20 program—

21 (i)(I) meet applicable Federal data
22 standards for biological data; or

23 (II) if there are no applicable Federal
24 data standards described in subclause (I),
25 meet data standards for the program es-

1 tablISHED by the Secretary, in consultation
2 with relevant Federal agencies, based on
3 findability, accessibility, interoperability,
4 and reusability data principles and using
5 industry best practices;

6 (ii) as appropriate, comply with De-
7 partment policies relating to species listed
8 as endangered or threatened under the En-
9 dangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
10 1531 et seq.); and

11 (iii) are updated to comply with any
12 applicable United States Geological Survey
13 standards for biological data; and

14 (C) ensure that appropriate cybersecurity
15 and access safeguards are implemented to pro-
16 tect the data generated or stored under the pro-
17 gram, including by ensuring that data outputs
18 under the program are updated as necessary to
19 meet applicable Federal cybersecurity standards
20 for genomic data, including controls consistent
21 with the National Institute of Standards and
22 Technology special publications 800–53 (relat-
23 ing to Security and Privacy Controls for Infor-
24 mation Systems and Organizations) and 800–
25 111 (relating to Guide to Storage Encryption

1 Technologies for End User Devices) or any suc-
2 cessor framework.

3 (2) LONG-TERM STORAGE.—The Secretary shall
4 consult with the Secretary of Agriculture and the
5 Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution with re-
6 spect to storage capabilities for the management and
7 long-term storage of samples collected under the
8 program, subject to the following:

9 (A) Ownership of any samples collected
10 under the program shall not be transferred, but
11 samples may be housed with the Smithsonian
12 Institution, the Department of Agriculture, or
13 another qualified repository pursuant to a writ-
14 ten repository agreement, which shall provide
15 that access to samples collected under the pro-
16 gram shall be managed by the respective insti-
17 tutional collection managers, with—

18 (i) the natural history collections to be
19 managed by the Secretary of the Smithso-
20 nian Institution; and

21 (ii) the germplasm repository to be
22 managed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

23 (B) Before any samples are collected under
24 the program, the Secretary, in coordination

1 with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Sec-
2 retary of the Smithsonian Institution, shall—

3 (i) evaluate the species to be sampled
4 to identify which species need to be col-
5 lected for long-term storage;

6 (ii) from among the species identified
7 under clause (i), identify which species
8 should be considered to be high-priority
9 species;

10 (iii) ensure that all samples proposed
11 for collection and long-term storage under
12 the program are evaluated in accordance
13 with appropriate standards identified by
14 the Secretary to minimize the risk of col-
15 lecting or storing disease vectors, patho-
16 gens, or other harmful biological agents;
17 and

18 (iv) require that any microbial or
19 pathogen material identified through an
20 evaluation under clause (iii) as requiring
21 enhanced biosafety or biosecurity measures
22 shall be—

23 (I) accessioned and stored sepa-
24 rately from other program samples in

1 a distinct, access-controlled collection;
2 and

3 (II) handled and stored only in
4 facilities with containment and oper-
5 ational controls appropriate to the
6 identified risk, consistent with appli-
7 cable Federal biosafety and biosecu-
8 rity requirements.

9 (C) Any samples identified for long-term
10 storage under subparagraph (B)(i) shall be—

11 (i) collected and stored under the pro-
12 gram; and

13 (ii) preserved in the natural history
14 collections to be managed by the Secretary
15 of the Smithsonian Institution for the pur-
16 poses of later research and long-term pres-
17 ervation.

18 (D) Any high-priority species identified
19 under subparagraph (B)(ii) shall be collected
20 for storage in each of—

21 (i) the natural history collections to be
22 managed by the Secretary of the Smithso-
23 nian Institution; and

24 (ii) the germplasm repository to be
25 managed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

1 (E) Any physical samples collected under
2 the program shall not be transferred, exported,
3 or loaned outside the United States unless the
4 Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of
5 Agriculture or the Secretary of the Smithsonian
6 Institution, deems the temporary transfer, ex-
7 port, or loan of a sample necessary for the pur-
8 poses of leveraging research expertise not other-
9 wise available in the United States.

10 (F) Any physical storage, curation, and
11 laboratory processing of samples collected under
12 the program shall occur within facilities located
13 in the United States.

14 (3) SAMPLING AND COLLECTION PROCE-
15 DURES.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary
16 shall—

17 (A) establish sampling and collection pro-
18 cedures and policies consistent with applicable
19 Department rules and standards, including per-
20 mitting and consultation requirements under
21 the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
22 1531 et seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act
23 (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.), section 42 of title 18,
24 United States Code, the Lacey Act Amend-
25 ments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.), and

1 the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16
2 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.); and

3 (B) develop sampling plans that leverage
4 existing research and monitoring programs
5 within the Department and any other organiza-
6 tions with existing relevant expertise including
7 the Smithsonian Institution and non-govern-
8 mental entities.

9 (4) SEQUENCING AND DATA PROCESSING.—In
10 carrying out the program, the Secretary shall—

11 (A) partner with the Secretary of Agri-
12 culture, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Insti-
13 tution, and the heads of other applicable Fed-
14 eral agencies to sequence genomic information
15 from samples collected under the program;

16 (B) develop and use standardized sequenc-
17 ing protocols to ensure consistency and com-
18 parability of data; and

19 (C) incorporate automated data processing
20 and quality checks to ensure the reliability of
21 the data.

22 (h) TRIBAL CONSULTATION.—In implementing the
23 program, the Secretary shall engage in consultation with
24 Indian Tribes in accordance with section 306108 of title

1 54, United States Code, Department policies on Tribal
2 consultation, and other applicable law.

3 (i) DEFENSE CONSULTATION.—In implementing the
4 program, the Secretary shall engage in consultation with
5 the Secretary of Defense, the Secretaries of the military
6 departments, and heads of research laboratories to ensure
7 that biological data generated under the program are col-
8 lected and stored in a manner that facilitates their use
9 in artificial intelligence pursuant to section 245 of subtitle
10 C of title II of division A of the National Defense Author-
11 ization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 (Public Law 119–60; 139
12 Stat. 796).

13 (j) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180
14 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
15 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress
16 an implementation plan for the program that provides the
17 following:

18 (1) A description of the expansion of genomic
19 sequencing under the program to additional units of
20 the National Park System under subsection (f)(3),
21 including the consideration of partnerships with
22 companies, contractors, and third parties to assist
23 the office in carrying out the expansion.

24 (2) An outline of methods in which the program
25 could be expanded to include other federally man-

1 aged land and Federal programs and facilities that
2 manage biological resources, including, but not lim-
3 ited to, land and programs or facilities managed by
4 the Bureau of Land Management, the United States
5 Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service,
6 including units of the National Wildlife Refuge Sys-
7 tem and units of the National Fish Hatchery Sys-
8 tem.

9 (3) A plan to facilitate, prior to public release,
10 expedited access pathways or other non-public serv-
11 ices (including bulk export application programming
12 interfaces and any computer resources supported by
13 the program within the United States) for the devel-
14 opment, training, or evaluation of artificial intel-
15 ligence models, to be limited to entities organized
16 under the laws of the United States that are not
17 owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by any
18 foreign entity of concern.

19 (k) REPORTS.—

20 (1) PRELIMINARY REPORT.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years
22 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
23 retary, in consultation with the Secretary of Ag-
24 riculture, shall submit to the appropriate com-
25 mittees of Congress a methodological review

1 and report of preliminary findings of the pro-
2 gram.

3 (B) INCLUSION.—The review and report
4 submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include
5 a plan for the sustainable and long-term fund-
6 ing of the program with recommendations relat-
7 ing to—

8 (i) a graduated subscription model de-
9 veloped in coordination with the Director
10 of the National Institute of Standards and
11 Technology and the Director of the Na-
12 tional Institutes of Health for the database
13 established under subsection (d)(1), the
14 cost of which shall be based on the size
15 and usage of the accessing organization;
16 and

17 (ii) potential partnerships with insti-
18 tutions of higher education, philanthropic
19 organizations, and nongovernmental orga-
20 nizations, such as the National Park Foun-
21 dation, to secure grants and additional
22 funding for the program in accordance
23 with applicable policies of the Department.

24 (2) FINAL REPORT.—As soon as practicable
25 after the date on which the program is terminated

1 under subsection (l), the Secretary, in consultation
2 with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall submit to
3 the appropriate committees of Congress a methodo-
4 logical review and report that describes the final
5 findings with respect to the program.

6 (l) PROGRAM FUNDING.—There are authorized to be
7 appropriated to carry out this section—

8 (1) to the Secretary for program oversight and
9 management of the conduct of genome sequencing in
10 selected units of the National Park System—

11 (A) \$16,500,000 for each of fiscal years
12 2027 and 2028;

13 (B) \$36,000,000 for fiscal year 2029; and

14 (C) \$54,000,000 for each of fiscal years
15 2030 and 2031;

16 (2) to the Smithsonian Institution for sample
17 storage—

18 (A) \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years
19 2027 and 2028;

20 (B) \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2029; and

21 (C) \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years
22 2030 and 2031;

23 (3) to the National Center for Agricultural Uti-
24 lization Research of the Department of Agriculture
25 for sample storage—

1 (A) \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years
2 2027 and 2028;

3 (B) \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2029; and

4 (C) \$9,000,000 for each of fiscal years
5 2030 and 2031;

6 (4) to the National Plant Germplasm System of
7 the Department of Agriculture for sample storage—

8 (A) \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years
9 2027 and 2028;

10 (B) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2029; and

11 (C) \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years
12 2030 and 2031; and

13 (5) to the National Center for Biotechnology
14 Information of the National Institutes of Health for
15 program data storage—

16 (A) \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years
17 2027 and 2028;

18 (B) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2029; and

19 (C) \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years
20 2030 and 2031.

21 (m) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority
22 to carry out the program terminates on the date that is
23 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

