

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118-**

**10**

**OFFERED BY MS. SHERRILL OF NEW JERSEY**

At the appropriate place in title XVIII, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 18\_\_ . STUDY AND REPORT ON EFFECTS OF UN-**  
2 **MANNED FREE BALLOONS ON AVIATION**  
3 **SAFETY.**

4 (a) STUDY.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The officials concerned shall  
6 conduct a study on the effects on aviation safety of  
7 domestically launched unmanned free balloons that  
8 do not emit an electronic or radio signal that is able  
9 to be located or tracked by the owner of the balloon  
10 or by civil or military airspace authorities.

11 (2) ELEMENTS.—The study described in para-  
12 graph (1) shall include an analysis of—

13 (A) how flights of the balloons described in  
14 paragraph (1) have or could affect aviation  
15 safety;

16 (B) how such balloon flights have contrib-  
17 uted or could contribute to misidentified threats

1 to civil or military air vehicles or infrastructure;  
2 and

3 (C) how such balloon flights have impacted  
4 or could impact defense readiness and air traf-  
5 fic control operations.

6 (b) REPORT.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 12 months  
8 after the date of enactment of this section, the offi-  
9 cials concerned shall submit to the appropriate con-  
10 gressional committees a report detailing the results  
11 of the study described in subsection (a)(1).

12 (2) DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—  
13 The report described in paragraph (1) shall include  
14 discussion and recommendations pertaining to—

15 (A) the efficacy, feasibility, technical speci-  
16 fications, and potential civil and military im-  
17 pacts of mandating that each domestically  
18 launched unmanned free balloon be equipped  
19 with an electronic or radio emitter that can be  
20 tracked with near real-time, geolocational, and  
21 altitudinal precision, and which can transmit  
22 identifying information of the balloon or its  
23 owner; and

24 (B) how the officials concerned can collect  
25 and use the data of such emitters for airspace

1           deconfliction and maintaining a safe airspace  
2           picture by integrating the data into a real-time  
3           or near real-time digital system that supports  
4           the operations of the Federal Aviation Adminis-  
5           tration and the Department of Defense.

6           (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7           (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
8           TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
9           mittees” means—

10                   (A) the Committee on Armed Services of  
11                   the House of Representatives;

12                   (B) the Committee on Transportation and  
13                   Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

14                   (C) the Committee on Armed Services of  
15                   the Senate; and

16                   (D) the Committee on Commerce, Science,  
17                   and Transportation of the Senate.

18           (2) OFFICIALS CONCERNED.—The term “offi-  
19           cials concerned” means the Secretary of Defense  
20           and the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Ad-  
21           ministration.

