

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
FOR H.R. 5303
OFFERED BY MR. BLUMENAUER OF OREGON**

At the end of title I, add the following:

1 **SEC. ____ . COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION.**

2 Title I of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act
3 (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
4 the following:

5 **“SEC. 123. COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION.**

6 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—

7 “(1) COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN.—The term ‘Co-
8 lumbia River Basin’ means the entire United States
9 portion of the Columbia River watershed.

10 “(2) ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP.—The term ‘Es-
11 tuary Partnership’ means the Lower Columbia Estu-
12 ary Partnership, an entity created by the States of
13 Oregon and Washington and the Environmental
14 Protection Agency under section 320.

15 “(3) ESTUARY PLAN.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘Estuary
17 Plan’ means the Estuary Partnership Com-
18 prehensive Conservation and Management Plan
19 adopted by the Environmental Protection Agen-

1 cy and the Governors of Oregon and Wash-
2 ington on October 20, 1999, under section 320.

3 “(B) INCLUSION.—The term ‘Estuary
4 Plan’ includes any amendments to the plan.

5 “(4) LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER ESTUARY.—The
6 term ‘Lower Columbia River Estuary’ means the
7 mainstem Columbia River from the Bonneville Dam
8 to the Pacific Ocean and tidally influenced portions
9 of tributaries to the Columbia River in that region.

10 “(5) MIDDLE AND UPPER COLUMBIA RIVER
11 BASIN.—The term ‘Middle and Upper Columbia
12 River Basin’ means the region consisting of the
13 United States portion of the Columbia River Basin
14 above Bonneville Dam.

15 “(6) PROGRAM.—The term ‘Program’ means
16 the Columbia River Basin Restoration Program es-
17 tablished under subsection (b)(1)(A).

18 “(b) COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION PRO-
19 GRAM.—

20 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
22 shall establish within the Environmental Protec-
23 tion Agency a Columbia River Basin Restora-
24 tion Program.

25 “(B) EFFECT.—

1 “(i) The establishment of the Pro-
2 gram does not modify any legal or regu-
3 latory authority or program in effect as of
4 the date of enactment of this section, in-
5 cluding the roles of Federal agencies in the
6 Columbia River Basin.

7 “(ii) This section does not create any
8 new regulatory authority.

9 “(2) SCOPE OF PROGRAM.—The Program shall
10 consist of a collaborative stakeholder-based program
11 for environmental protection and restoration activi-
12 ties throughout the Columbia River Basin.

13 “(3) DUTIES.—The Administrator shall—

14 “(A) assess trends in water quality, includ-
15 ing trends that affect uses of the water of the
16 Columbia River Basin;

17 “(B) collect, characterize, and assess data
18 on water quality to identify possible causes of
19 environmental problems; and

20 “(C) provide grants in accordance with
21 subsection (d) for projects that assist in—

22 “(i) eliminating or reducing pollution;

23 “(ii) cleaning up contaminated sites;

24 “(iii) improving water quality;

25 “(iv) monitoring to evaluate trends;

- 1 “(v) reducing runoff;
2 “(vi) protecting habitat; or
3 “(vii) promoting citizen engagement
4 or knowledge.

5 “(c) STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP.—

6 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator
7 shall establish a Columbia River Basin Restoration
8 Working Group (referred to in this subsection as the
9 ‘Working Group’).

10 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Membership in the
12 Working Group shall be on a voluntary basis
13 and any person invited by the Administrator
14 under this subsection may decline membership.

15 “(B) INVITED REPRESENTATIVES.—The
16 Administrator shall invite, at a minimum, rep-
17 resentatives of—

18 “(i) each State located in whole or in
19 part within the Columbia River Basin;

20 “(ii) the Governors of each State lo-
21 cated in whole or in part with the Colum-
22 bia River Basin;

23 “(iii) each federally recognized Indian
24 tribe in the Columbia River Basin;

1 “(iv) local governments located in the
2 Columbia River Basin;

3 “(v) industries operating in the Co-
4 lumbia River Basin that affect or could af-
5 fect water quality;

6 “(vi) electric, water, and wastewater
7 utilities operating in the Columba River
8 Basin;

9 “(vii) private landowners in the Co-
10 lumbia River Basin;

11 “(viii) soil and water conservation dis-
12 tricts in the Columbia River Basin;

13 “(ix) nongovernmental organizations
14 that have a presence in the Columbia River
15 Basin;

16 “(x) the general public in the Colum-
17 bia River Basin; and

18 “(xi) the Estuary Partnership.

19 “(3) GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION.—The
20 Working Group shall include representatives from—

21 “(A) each State; and

22 “(B) each of the Lower, Middle, and
23 Upper Basins of the Columbia River.

24 “(4) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The
25 Working Group shall—

1 “(A) recommend and prioritize projects
2 and actions; and

3 “(B) review the progress and effectiveness
4 of projects and actions implemented.

5 “(5) LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER ESTUARY.—

6 “(A) ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP.—The Estu-
7 ary Partnership shall perform the duties and
8 fulfill the responsibilities of the Working Group
9 described in paragraph (4) as those duties and
10 responsibilities relate to the Lower Columbia
11 River Estuary for such time as the Estuary
12 Partnership is the management conference for
13 the Lower Columbia River National Estuary
14 Program under section 320.

15 “(B) DESIGNATION.—If the Estuary Part-
16 nership ceases to be the management con-
17 ference for the Lower Columbia River National
18 Estuary Program under section 320, the Ad-
19 ministrator may designate the new management
20 conference to assume the duties and responsibil-
21 ities of the Working Group described in para-
22 graph (4) as those duties and responsibilities
23 relate to the Lower Columbia River Estuary.

24 “(C) INCORPORATION.—If the Estuary
25 Partnership is removed from the National Estu-

1 ary Program, the duties and responsibilities for
2 the lower 146 miles of the Columbia River pur-
3 suant to this Act shall be incorporated into the
4 duties of the Working Group.

5 “(d) GRANTS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall es-
7 tablish a voluntary, competitive Columbia River
8 Basin program to provide grants to State govern-
9 ments, tribal governments, regional water pollution
10 control agencies and entities, local government enti-
11 ties, nongovernmental entities, or soil and water con-
12 servation districts to develop or implement projects
13 authorized under this section for the purpose of en-
14 vironmental protection and restoration activities
15 throughout the Columbia River Basin.

16 “(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
18 subparagraph (B), the Federal share of the cost
19 of any project or activity carried out using
20 funds from a grant provided to any person (in-
21 cluding a State, tribal, or local government or
22 interstate or regional agency) under this sub-
23 section for a fiscal year—

24 “(i) shall not exceed 75 percent of the
25 total cost of the project or activity; and

1 “(ii) shall be made on condition that
2 the non-Federal share of that total cost
3 shall be provided from non-Federal
4 sources.

5 “(B) EXCEPTIONS.—With respect to cost-
6 sharing for a grant provided under this sub-
7 section—

8 “(i) a tribal government may use Fed-
9 eral funds for the non-Federal share; and

10 “(ii) the Administrator may increase
11 the Federal share under such cir-
12 cumstances as the Administrator deter-
13 mines to be appropriate.

14 “(3) ALLOCATION.—In making grants using
15 funds appropriated to carry out this section, the Ad-
16 ministrator shall—

17 “(A) provide not less than 25 percent of
18 the funds to make grants for projects, pro-
19 grams, and studies in the Lower Columbia
20 River Estuary;

21 “(B) provide not less than 25 percent of
22 the funds to make grants for projects, pro-
23 grams, and studies in the Middle and Upper
24 Columbia River Basin, which includes the
25 Snake River Basin; and

1 “(C) retain for Environmental Protection
2 Agency not more than 5 percent of the funds
3 for purposes of implementing this section.

4 “(4) REPORTING.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each grant recipient
6 under this subsection shall submit to the Ad-
7 ministrator reports on progress being made in
8 achieving the purposes of this section.

9 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The Administrator
10 shall establish requirements and timelines for
11 recipients of grants under this subsection to re-
12 port on progress made in achieving the pur-
13 poses of this section.

14 “(5) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER FUNDING.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this sub-
16 section limits the eligibility of the Estuary Part-
17 nership to receive funding under section 320(g).

18 “(B) LIMITATION.—None of the funds
19 made available under this subsection may be
20 used for the administration of a management
21 conference under section 320.”.

