AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT

117–50

OFFERED BY MR. BUDD OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 15, after line 7, insert the following:

SEC. 502. UNLEASH AMERICAN DRILLING.

(a) Amendments to the Mineral Leasing Act.—Section 17(p) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(p)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) Deadline for decision on permits.—

“(A) In general.—The Secretary shall issue a decision on a permit not later than 90 days after the applicant for a permit has submitted a complete application if the Secretary—

“(i) has not yet issued or deferred the permit under paragraph (2) within the 30-day period specified in such paragraph; or

“(ii) has deferred the permit under paragraph (2)(B), and there are no steps the applicant is required to take for the
permit to be issued pursuant to paragraph
(2)(B)(i).

“(B) MANDATORY ISSUANCE.—If the Sec-
retary does not issue a decision under subpara-
graph (A) within the 90-day period specified in
such subparagraph, the permit shall be consid-
ered issued.”.

(b) BLM REPORT TO CONGRESS ON PERMITTING
BACKLOG.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the
enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall
submit to the Committees on Natural Resources and En-
ergy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and
the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the
Senate a report on the backlog of applications for permits
to drill, including—

(1) the extent of the backlog;
(2) reasons for the backlog, including—
(A) limitations on resources; and
(B) statutory and administrative barriers
to clearing the backlog;
(3) steps the Bureau of Land Management can
take to clear the backlog; and
(4) recommendations to Congress for financial assistance or statutory actions to help clear the backlog.