

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 118-11
OFFERED BY MR. CARTER OF LOUISIANA

Add at the end of section 602 the following:

1 (c) EXPANDING USE OF INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES
2 IN THE GULF OF MEXICO.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
4 Federal Aviation Administration shall prioritize the
5 authorization of an eligible UAS test range sponsor
6 partnering with an eligible airport authority to
7 achieve the goals specified in paragraph (2).

8 (2) GOALS.—The goals of a partnership author-
9 ized pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be to test the
10 operations of innovative technologies in both com-
11 mercial and non-commercial applications to—

12 (A) identify challenges associated with
13 aviation operations over large bodies of water;

14 (B) provide transportation of cargo and
15 passengers to offshore energy infrastructure;

16 (C) assess the impacts of operations in
17 saltwater environments;

18 (D) identify the challenges of integrating
19 such technologies in complex airspace, including
20 with commercial rotorcraft; and

1 (E) identify the differences between coordi-
2 nating with Federal air traffic control towers
3 and towers operated under the FAA Contract
4 Tower Program.

5 (3) BRIEFING TO CONGRESS.—The Adminis-
6 trator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall
7 provide an annual briefing to the Committee on
8 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of
9 Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
10 Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the
11 status of the partnership authorized under this sub-
12 section, including detailing any barriers to the com-
13 mercialization of innovative technologies in the Gulf
14 of Mexico.

15 (4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

16 (A) ELIGIBLE UAS TEST RANGE SPON-
17 SOR.—The term “eligible UAS test range spon-
18 sor” means an existing sponsor of a UAS test
19 range located in a landlocked State.

20 (B) ELIGIBLE AIRPORT AUTHORITY.—The
21 term “eligible airport authority” means an AIP-
22 eligible airport authority that is—

23 (i) located in a state bordering the
24 Gulf of Mexico which does not already con-
25 tain a UAS Test Range;

1 (ii) has an air traffic control tower op-
2 erated under the FAA Contract Tower
3 Program;

4 (iii) is located within 60 miles of a
5 port; and

6 (iv) does not have any scheduled pas-
7 senger airline service as of the date of the
8 enactment of this Act.

9 (C) INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES.—The
10 term “innovative technologies” means un-
11 manned aircraft systems and powered-lift air-
12 craft.

13 (D) UAS.—The term “UAS” means an
14 unmanned aircraft system.

15 (E) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The
16 term “unmanned aircraft system” has the
17 meaning given such term in section 44801 of
18 title 49, United States Code.

