

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119-

33

OFFERED BY MR. CARTER OF GEORGIA

At the end of subtitle B of title XVII, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 17. ____ PROHIBITION ON PROHIBITING, OR REQUIR-**
2 **ING PERMITS OR OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS**
3 **FOR, UNDERSEA FIBER OPTIC CABLES AU-**
4 **THORIZED BY A FEDERAL OR STATE AGENCY.**

5 (a) PROHIBITION.—The National Marine Sanctuaries
6 Act (16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.) is amended by inserting after
7 section 310 the following:

8 **“SEC. 310A. PROHIBITION ON PROHIBITING, OR REQUIRING**
9 **PERMITS OR OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS FOR,**
10 **UNDERSEA FIBER OPTIC CABLES AUTHOR-**
11 **IZED BY A FEDERAL OR STATE AGENCY.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
13 vision of this Act, the Secretary may not prohibit, or re-
14 quire any permit, including any special use permit, or
15 other authorization for, the installation, continued pres-
16 ence, operation, maintenance, repair, or recovery of under-
17 sea fiber optic cables in a national marine sanctuary if
18 a license, lease, or permit has been issued by a Federal

1 or State agency, and is in effect, authorizing such installa-
2 tion, continued presence, operation, maintenance, repair,
3 or recovery.

4 “(b) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.—Nothing in this
5 section shall be construed as altering existing require-
6 ments regarding interagency cooperation under section
7 304(d) in any Federal agency action described in that sec-
8 tion and involving the installation, continued presence, op-
9 eration, maintenance, repair, or recovery of undersea fiber
10 optic cables in a national marine sanctuary.”.

11 (b) REMOVING RESTRICTIONS ON ACTIVITIES COV-
12 ERED BY SANCTUARY SPECIAL USE PERMITS.—Section
13 310(c) of National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C.
14 1441(c)) is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (1), by adding “and” at the
16 end;

17 (2) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3); and

18 (3) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-
19 graph (2).

