AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117–31
OFFERED BY MR. CAWTHORN OF NORTH CAROLINA

At the end of title III of division C add the following new section:

SEC. 20303. CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO DISPOSE OF CERTAIN FISSILE OR RADIOLOGICAL MATERIALS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) While United States-origin americium–241 (Am–241) sealed sources recovered by the National Nuclear Security Administration of the Department of Energy may be disposed of at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), Russian-origin Am-241 sources may not be.

(2) Section 2(19) of the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act of 1991 identifies WIPP as the location for the disposal of “radioactive waste materials generated by atomic energy defense activities”.

(3) The Am–241 sources of concern that may not currently be eligible for disposal at WIPP have...
the same isotopic properties and are often colocated
with sources that are eligible for disposal at WIPP.

(4) Russian-origin sealed sources, once con-
firmed to meet the WIPP Waste Acceptance Cri-
teria, should be eligible for disposal at WIPP.

(5) The Carlsbad Field Office of the Depart-
ment estimates the volume to be disposed is equiva-
tent to 1 to 2 shipments a year and will have a neg-
ligible impact on WIPP operations.

(6) The Department, the Nuclear Regulatory
Commission (NRC), and the international commu-
nity have identified Am–241 as a radioisotope that
should be protected due to the possibility of its use
in a radiological dispersal device.

(7) As part of its defense nuclear nonproliferation
mission, the National Nuclear Security Admin-
istration recovers thousands of disused sealed
sources from domestic and international facilities.

(8) Codifying a disposition pathway for these
Am–241 sources will allow the National Nuclear Se-
curity Administration to accelerate their removal
and reduce the availability of material that could be
used in a dirty bomb.

(b) CLARIFICATION.—Section 3132(c)(1) of the Ron-
Fiscal Year 2005 (50 U.S.C. 2569(e)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(N)(i) The collection, storage, and safe disposal of the materials described in clause (ii) as waste materials generated by atomic energy defense activities for the purpose of disposal of such materials at WIPP (as defined in section 2(19) of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Land Withdrawal Act (Public Law 102–579; 106 Stat. 4777).

“(ii) The materials described in this clause are proliferation-attractive fissile materials or radiological materials that—

“(I) contain transuranic elements of foreign-origin; and

“(II) but for subclause (I), are similar to proliferation-attractive fissile materials or radiological materials covered by this section.”.