

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
FOR H.R. 4435
OFFERED BY MR. DAINES OF MONTANA**

At the end of subtitle D of title XVI, add the following new section:

**1 SEC. 1636. FINDINGS AND STATEMENT OF POLICY ON THE
2 NUCLEAR TRIAD.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

**4 (1) The April 2010 Nuclear Posture Review
5 stated—**

**6 (A) “After considering a wide range of
7 possible options for the U.S. strategic nuclear
8 posture, including some that involved elimi-
9 nating a leg of the Triad, the NPR concluded
10 that for planned reductions under New START,
11 the United States should retain a smaller Triad
12 of SLBMs [submarine launched ballistic mis-
13 siles], ICBMs [intercontinental ballistic mis-
14 siles], and heavy bombers. Retaining all three
15 Triad legs will best maintain strategic stability
16 at reasonable cost, while hedging against poten-
17 tial technical problems or vulnerabilities.”;**

1 (B) “ICBMs provide significant advan-
2 tages to the U.S. nuclear force posture, includ-
3 ing extremely secure command and control,
4 high readiness rates, and relatively low oper-
5 ating costs.”;

6 (C) “a survivable U.S. response force re-
7 quires continuous at-sea deployments of SSBNs
8 [ballistic missile submarines] in both the Atlan-
9 tic and Pacific oceans, as well as the ability to
10 surge additional submarines in crisis.”; and

11 (D) nuclear-capable bombers—

12 (i) “[provide] a rapid and effective
13 hedge against technical challenges with an-
14 other leg of the Triad, as well as geo-
15 political uncertainties”; and

16 (ii) “are important to extended deter-
17 rence of potential attacks on U.S. allies
18 and partners.”.

19 (2) In a letter to the Senate on February 2,
20 2011, regarding the New START Treaty, President
21 Obama stated that “I intend to modernize or replace
22 the triad of strategic nuclear delivery systems: a
23 heavy bomber and air- launched cruise missile, an
24 ICBM, and a nuclear-powered ballistic missile sub-
25 marine (SSBN) and SLBM.”.

1 (3) In the Resolution Of Advice And Consent
2 To Ratification of the New START Treaty, the Sen-
3 ate stated that “it is the sense of the Senate that
4 United States deterrence and flexibility is assured by
5 a robust triad of strategic delivery vehicles. To this
6 end, the United States is committed to accom-
7 plishing the modernization and replacement of its
8 strategic nuclear delivery vehicles, and to ensuring
9 the continued flexibility of United States conven-
10 tional and nuclear delivery systems.”.

11 (4) On June 19, 2013, the Secretary of De-
12 fense, Chuck Hagel, stated, “First, the U.S. will
13 maintain a ready and credible deterrent. Second, we
14 will retain a triad of bombers, ICBMs, and ballistic
15 missile submarines. Third, we will make sure that
16 our nuclear weapons remain safe, secure, ready and
17 effective.”.

18 (5) Section 1062 of the National Defense Au-
19 thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law
20 113–66; 10 U.S.C. 495 note) states that—

21 (A) “It is the policy of the United States
22 to modernize or replace the triad of strategic
23 nuclear delivery systems”; and

24 (B) “Congress supports the modernization
25 or replacement of the triad of strategic nuclear

1 delivery systems consisting of a heavy bomber
2 and air-launched cruise missile, an interconti-
3 nental ballistic missile, and a ballistic missile
4 submarine and submarine launched ballistic
5 missile”.

6 (6) On March 6, 2014, the Chairman of the
7 Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Martin Dempsey, tes-
8 tified to the Committee on Armed Services of the
9 House of Representatives that the Joint Chiefs of
10 Staff have determined that “our recommendation is
11 to remain firmly committed to the triad, the three
12 legs of the nuclear capability, and that any further
13 reduction should be done only through negotiations,
14 not unilaterally, and that we should commit to mod-
15 ernizing the stockpile while we have it.”.

16 (7) On April 2, 2014, the Commander of
17 United States Strategic Command, Admiral Cecil
18 Haney, testified to the Committee on Armed Serv-
19 ices of the House of Representatives that “First and
20 foremost, I think it is important that we as a coun-
21 try realize just how important and foundational our
22 strategic deterrent is today for us and well into the
23 future. As you have mentioned, there is a need for
24 modernization in a variety of areas. When you look
25 at the credible strategic deterrent we have today,

1 that includes everything from the indications and
2 warning, to the command and control and commu-
3 nication structure that goes all the way from the
4 President down to the units, and to what frequently
5 we talk about as the triad involving the interconti-
6 nental ballistic missiles, the submarines, and the
7 bombers—each providing its unique aspect of deter-
8 rence.”.

9 (8) In the June 2013 Report on Nuclear Em-
10 ployment Strategy of the United States required by
11 section 491 of title 10, United States Code, the Sec-
12 retary of Defense, on behalf of the President, stated
13 that “the United States will maintain a nuclear
14 Triad, consisting of ICBMs, SLBMs, and nuclear-
15 capable heavy bombers. Retaining all three Triad
16 legs will best maintain strategic stability at reason-
17 able cost, while hedging against potential technical
18 problems or vulnerabilities. These forces should be
19 operated on a day-to-day basis in a manner that
20 maintains strategic stability with Russia and China,
21 deters potential regional adversaries, and assures
22 U.S. Allies and partners.”.

23 (b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the
24 United States—

1 (1) to operate, sustain, and modernize or re-
2 place the triad of strategic nuclear delivery systems
3 consisting of—

4 (A) heavy bombers equipped with nuclear
5 gravity bombs and air-launched nuclear cruise
6 missiles;

7 (B) land-based intercontinental ballistic
8 missiles equipped with nuclear warheads that
9 are capable of carrying multiple independently
10 targetable reentry vehicles; and

11 (C) ballistic missile submarines equipped
12 with submarine launched ballistic missiles and
13 multiple nuclear warheads.

14 (2) to operate, sustain, and modernize or re-
15 place a capability to forward-deploy nuclear weapons
16 and dual-capable fighter-bomber aircraft;

17 (3) to deter potential adversaries and assure al-
18 lies and partners of the United States through
19 strong and long-term commitment to the nuclear de-
20 terrent of the United States and the personnel, sys-
21 tems, and infrastructure that comprise such deter-
22 rent; and

23 (4) to ensure the members of the Armed Forces
24 that operate the nuclear deterrent of the United
25 States have the training, resources, and national

- 1 support required to execute the critical national se-
- 2 curity mission of the members.

