

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4368, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MS. ESCOBAR OF TEXAS

At the end of the bill (before the spending reduction account), insert the following:

1 SEC. _____. Title III of the Federal Crop Insurance
2 Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization
3 Act of 1994 is amended by adding after section 309 (7
4 U.S.C. 6921) the following:

5 **“SEC. 309A. OFFICE OF COLONIA AFFAIRS.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture
7 shall maintain in the Office of the Secretary an Office of
8 Colonia Affairs, which shall—

9 “(1) serve as a resource for colonias and local-
10 ities that have colonias by providing information
11 about, and technical assistance pertaining to, Fed-
12 eral programs and funding sources applicable to
13 colonias;

14 “(2) advise the Secretary on matters pertaining
15 to colonias; and

16 “(3) carry out such other functions as the Sec-
17 retary considers appropriate.

1 “(b) REPORTS.—Not less frequently than once every
2 two years, the Office of Colonia Affairs shall submit to
3 Congress a report that describes—

4 “(1) the infrastructure needs of colonias; and

5 “(2) recommendations for legislative or admin-
6 istrative action for the following two years.

7 “(c) COLONIA DEFINED.—In this section, the term
8 ‘colonia’ means any identifiable community that—

9 “(1) is in the State of Arizona, California, New
10 Mexico, or Texas;

11 “(2) is in the area of the United States within
12 150 miles of the border between the United States
13 and Mexico, except that the term does not include
14 any standard metropolitan statistical area that has
15 a population exceeding 1,000,000; and

16 “(3) is determined by the Secretary to be a
17 colonia on the basis of objective criteria, including
18 lack of potable water supply, lack of adequate sew-
19 age systems, and lack of decent, safe, and sanitary
20 housing.”.

