AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
FOR H.R. 1735
OFFERED BY MR. FORTENBERRY OF NEBRASKA

Page 848, after line 15, insert the following new
subsections (and redesignate the subsequent subsection accordingly):

(c) OPTIONS.—The requirements of subsections (a)
and (b) shall not apply if the Secretary of Energy submits
written certification to the congressional defense commis-
tees that—

(1) an independent cost assessment has con-
cluded that an alternative option for addressing ex-
cess plutonium exists that would cost less than 40
percent over its lifecycle than the estimated lifecycle
cost of the MOX facility; and

(2) pursuing other disposition options or a stra-
ategic pause in actions by the United States to imple-
ment the excess plutonium disposition obligations of
the United States is in the fiscal and national secu-

(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
gress that—
(1) the Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement (in this subsection referred to as the “PMDA”) between the United States and the Russian Federation, originally signed in 2000, was updated in 2010 when the original agreement “proved incompatible with Russia’s nuclear energy strategy and was, thus, not financially viable.”;

(2) the PMDA does not include a timeline or deadline for final disposition of the excess plutonium, and a strategic pause in the actions of the United States to implement the agreement, as it considers affordability and the full range of available options, would not be contrary to the agreement or to the nonproliferation goals of the United States;

(3) by using breeder reactors to burn its excess plutonium under the PMDA, the Russian Federation may extract more or equivalent amounts of fissile material from these reactors, which may be contrary to the spirit of the PMDA and the objective of plutonium disposition;

(4) Russia continues to violate critical bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements to which the United States is a party, including the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty and at least six other arms control treaties and agreements; and
(5) while Congress supports continued, long-term implementation of the obligations of the United States under the PMDA, Congress believes the Secretary of Energy should consider affordable options for addressing excess plutonium, including an option to take a strategic pause in implementation of the disposition actions of the United States, if the Secretary determines such options are in the fiscal and national security interests of the United States.