AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118–10
OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR OF ARIZONA

At the end of subtitle C of title XVIII, add the following new section:

SEC. 18. SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO RADIATION EXPOSURE COMPENSATION FOR CERTAIN PORTIONS OF MOHAVE COUNTY, ARIZONA.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) From 1945 to 1962, the Federal Government conducted nearly 200 atmospheric weapons development tests as part of the Cold War security strategy of the United States, during an era when hostile foreign governments were also engaged in nuclear weapons testing and proliferation. Such tests exposed thousands of innocent Americans to cancer-causing ionized radiation from nuclear fallout.

(2) When the injuries resulting from such exposures were discovered, Congress subsequently provided an apology on behalf of the Federal Government and the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–426; 42 U.S.C. 2210 note) was enacted to establish a trust fund for par-
tial restitution to individuals (commonly referred to as “Downwinders”) who have contracted certain cancers and other serious diseases that may be directly attributed to the radiation exposure from the nuclear weapons testing described in paragraph (1).

(3) In 2000, the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2000 (Public Law 106–245; 42 U.S.C. 2210 note) was enacted, amending the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990. The House of Representatives stated in the report accompanying such Act that the goal of Congress in amending the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990 was to “increase” the existing Downwinder areas to “include” additional areas.

(4) Specifically, Congress added new counties to the affected area pursuant to the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2000, but in doing so, inadvertently eliminated a portion of Mohave County, Arizona, that is north of the Grand Canyon and that had been included in the original Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990.

(5) Such elimination was the result of a drafting error in the statutory text, at odds with the stated goal of the amendment, as specified in such accompanying report.
(b) Sense of Congress.—It is the sense of Congress that Congress and the Federal Government have a responsibility to provide compensation for all individuals that developed radiation-induced cancer from the tests described in subsection (a)(1).