AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116-57

OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR OF ARIZONA

At the end of title XVII (page 1115, after line 5), add the following:

SEC. 1762. SECURING RELIABLE DOMESTIC SUPPLY OF THE CRITICAL MINERAL HELIUM FOR NATIONAL SECURITY.

(a) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall develop 1 or more categorical exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (16 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) for helium development permitting activity.

(b) HELIUM DEVELOPMENT PERMITTING ACTIVITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term “helium development permitting activity” means any activity described in paragraph (2) that—

(A) is in relation to public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management;

(B) conforms to an applicable land use plan; and
(C) could contribute to the reduction of dependency of the United States on foreign sources of helium.

(2) DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES.—An activity referred to in paragraph (1) is the issuance of a permit, a right-of-way grant, or other authority—

(A) to allow for helium drilling operations and surface disturbing activities;

(B) for a helium pipeline right-of-way from the wellsite to a helium processing or treatment plant;

(C) for the construction or maintenance of a helium wells site access road; or

(D) for the construction or operation of a helium processing plant, including the power source and access road to such plant.

(c) NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED PARTIES.—Upon permitting projects the Secretary of the Interior shall periodically inform the Secretary of Defense, through the Defense Logistics Agency, and the Secretary of Energy, through the National Laboratories, of the development status of projects producing helium, including the operators of the projects, to ensure that such Secretaries are aware of new domestic helium supplies created by this Act.