AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117–13

OFFERED BY MR. LAMBORN OF COLORADO

Add at the end of subtitle A of title XVI the following new section:

SEC. 16___. LEVERAGING COMMERCIAL ON-ORBIT SATELLITE SERVICING.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) National security depends on reliable access to, and safe operations in, space. Modern society is reliant on space operations, but most spacecraft today are designed to be discarded at end-of-mission, leaving potential gaps in mission continuity and contributing to risk in the space domain.

(2) Existing and future critical Department of Defense missions operating in space and providing multidomain support would benefit from the application of commercial On-orbit Servicing, Assembly, and Manufacturing (in this section referred to as ''OSAM'') capabilities, which extend the longevity and operability of national security space systems through inspection, repair, refueling, and mitigation of debris.

(3) Because the domain in which space systems operate is increasingly congested, the risk of collisions and orbital debris generation has increased, a risk that is exacerbated by a lack of utilization of OSAM services. A secure, stable, and accessible space domain is paramount to the unimpeded and resilient operations of civil, military, intelligence, and commercial space assets by the United States and its allies. OSAM technologies support Department of Defense strategy by improving the adaptability and efficiency of existing and future military space architectures.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Congress strongly encourages the Secretary of Defense to invest in developing technologies to support the advancement of debris remediation, such as rendezvous, proximity operations, and debris removal as an element of OSAM;

(2) because of the importance of the space domain, the Secretary should seek ways to collaborate with United States industry partners and allied nations;

(3) beyond technology development, the Secretary and the intelligence community should con-

sider satellite servicing and active disposal as a viable operational trade-off—in this way, in the future, a back-up disposal plan using direct retrieval should be a preferred and viable method for relevant or off-nominal missions.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than December 3, 2021, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that—

(1) identifies critical investment areas for the further development and usage of commercial OSAM technologies and capabilities to meet emerging and changing government space mission needs on-orbit; and

(2) includes a plan for interagency engagement in the standardization and adoption of commercial OSAM interfaces for government space systems.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the congressional defense committees;

(2) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(3) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

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