

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT**

**115-70**

**OFFERED BY MR. LIPINSKI OF ILLINOIS**

At the end of subtitle G of title X of division A, add the following:

1 **SEC. \_\_\_\_ . CLIMATE SOLUTIONS CHALLENGES.**

2 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—Not later than 180 days after the  
3 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy  
4 shall establish a program to be known as “Climate Solu-  
5 tions Challenges” for carrying out prize competitions de-  
6 scribed under subsection (d) pursuant to section 24 of the  
7 Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15  
8 U.S.C. 3719) relating to the climate and energy.

9 (b) **PRIZE COMMITTEES.**—

10 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall assem-  
11 ble a prize committee with respect to each prize  
12 competition that shall define the scope and detail of,  
13 and provide the requirements for, the prize competi-  
14 tions under this section. Such committee shall be  
15 composed of—

16 (A) members from the Federal agency, de-  
17 partment, or office that most appropriately cor-

1            responds with the topic of the prize competi-  
2            tion, including—

3                    (i) with respect to a prize competition  
4                    under subsection (c)(4), the Administrator  
5                    of the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-  
6                    ministration and the Director of the Na-  
7                    tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-  
8                    tration; and

9                    (ii) with respect to a prize competition  
10                    under subsection (c)(5), the Director of the  
11                    National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin-  
12                    istration and the Director of the National  
13                    Technical Information Service; and

14                    (B) representatives of any other entities,  
15                    as determined appropriate by the Secretary, in-  
16                    cluding State and local governments and the  
17                    private sector.

18            (2) DEFINING TOPIC AREAS.—The prize com-  
19            mittee may modify and define the scope of the prize  
20            areas described under subsection (c), so long as such  
21            modification is in accordance with descriptions in  
22            such subsection.

23            (3) INCENTIVE FOR PRIZE COMPETITION.—The  
24            prize committee for each prize competition shall de-  
25            termine the incentive for the prize competition. In

1 determining the incentive, the committee shall con-  
2 sider—

3 (A) a cash prize;

4 (B) access to Government facilities, such  
5 as through a lab-embedded entrepreneurship  
6 program of the Department of Energy, a coop-  
7 erative research and development agreement, or  
8 other method; and

9 (C) any other incentive provided for by  
10 law.

11 (4) JUDGING CRITERIA.—The prize committee  
12 for each prize competition shall establish judging cri-  
13 teria for the competition that shall include, at a min-  
14 imum—

15 (A) potential for the solution to become a  
16 commercial product or service or advance  
17 knowledge to further the public good;

18 (B) consideration of how likely the solution  
19 is to lead to subsequent research, development,  
20 or manufacturing in the United States;

21 (C) the degree to which the solution will  
22 lower the climate footprint of the United States;  
23 and

24 (D) the degree to which the solution will  
25 lower the global climate footprint.

1           (5) CONSIDERATION.—In carrying out this sec-  
2           tion, the committee shall take into consideration the  
3           best practices provided for in the challenges and  
4           prizes toolkit made publicly available on December  
5           15, 2016, by the General Services Administration.

6           (c) PRIZE COMPETITIONS.—In carrying out the pro-  
7           gram, the Secretary shall provide for prize competitions,  
8           including at least 1 prize competition on each of the fol-  
9           lowing:

10           (1) CARBON CAPTURE AND BENEFICIAL USE.—

11           Solutions to capture carbon directly from the atmos-  
12           phere or from sources that would otherwise be emit-  
13           ted to the atmosphere, and convert it to a beneficial  
14           use that does not result in near-term re-release into  
15           the atmosphere, unless such re-release offsets the  
16           emission of additional carbon into the atmosphere,  
17           such that the net effect of the solution is to reduce  
18           the overall amount of carbon being emitted to the  
19           atmosphere.

20           (2) ENERGY EFFICIENCY.—Solutions to achieve  
21           transformative increases in energy efficiency, defined  
22           as an increase in energy efficiency of 2 times or  
23           more over commonly-available technology without a  
24           proportional increase in cost.

1           (3) ENERGY STORAGE.—Solutions to achieve  
2           implementation or grid integration of advanced en-  
3           ergy storage technology.

4           (4) CLIMATE RESILIENCY.—Solutions to pro-  
5           vide new or improved approaches to mitigating or  
6           adapting to the effects of climate change (such as  
7           floods, drought, excessive heat and cold, and severe  
8           weather) in rural or urban areas.

9           (5) DATA ANALYTICS.—Solutions to—

10           (A) provide new or improved tools that use  
11           data to better model Earth’s climate at a glob-  
12           al, regional, or local scale;

13           (B) forecast climate-related phenomena  
14           (such as weather, seasonal trends, oceanic and  
15           atmospheric circulation); or

16           (C) provide actionable information on the  
17           climate and related phenomena to government,  
18           industry, and members of the public.

19           (d) ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS.—In addition to such  
20           sums as may be appropriated or otherwise made available  
21           to the Secretary to award prizes under this section, the  
22           Secretary may accept funds from other Federal agencies,  
23           private sector entities, and State and local governments  
24           to award prizes under this section. The Secretary may not  
25           give any special consideration relating to the selection of

1 awards under the prize competition to any private sector  
2 entity or individual in return for a donation to the Sec-  
3 retary or prize committee.

4 (e) ELIGIBILITY.—Notwithstanding section 24(g)(3)  
5 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of  
6 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719(g)(3)), for a group to be eligible  
7 for an award under this section, at least one member of  
8 such group shall be a citizen or permanent resident of the  
9 United States.

10 (f) COMPLETION OF PRIZE COMPETITIONS.—The  
11 prize competitions carried out under this section shall be  
12 completed not later than the date that is 5 years after  
13 the program is established under subsection (a).

14 (g) GAO REPORT.—Not later than the date of com-  
15 pletion under subsection (f), the Comptroller General of  
16 the United States shall submit to Congress a report on  
17 the impact and the effectiveness of the program carried  
18 out under this section.

19 (h) LIMITATION.—No additional funds are author-  
20 ized to be appropriated to carry out this section and the  
21 amendments made by this section, and this section and  
22 such amendments shall be carried out using amounts oth-  
23 erwise available for such purpose.

