

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO THE
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 113-34
OFFERED BY MR. MCNERNEY OF CALIFORNIA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT SELECT COM-**
2 **MITTEE ON LONG-TERM DROUGHT.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established a
4 joint committee which shall consist of 10 Members of Con-
5 gress as follows:

6 (1) MEMBERS.—Five members of the House of
7 Representatives: 3 Republicans and 2 Democrats.
8 Five Senators: 3 Democrats and 2 Republicans.
9 Members of the joint committee shall be appointed
10 as follows:

11 (A) The majority leader of the Senate shall
12 appoint 3 members from among Members of
13 the Senate.

14 (B) The minority leader of the Senate shall
15 appoint 2 members from among Members of
16 the Senate.

1 (C) The Speaker of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives shall appoint 3 members from
3 among Members of the House of Representa-
4 tives.

5 (D) The minority leader of the House of
6 Representatives shall appoint 2 members from
7 among Members of the House of Representa-
8 tives.

9 (2) CO-CHAIRS.—There shall be 2 co-chairs of
10 the joint committee. The majority leader of the Sen-
11 ate shall designate one of the appointees as co-chair
12 from among the members of the joint committee.
13 The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
14 designate one of the appointees as the second co-
15 chair from among the members of the joint com-
16 mittee.

17 (b) TRANSPARENCY.—Any hearing conducted by the
18 joint committee shall be made available to the public.

19 (c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The joint committee
20 shall—

21 (1) provide recommendations and legislative
22 language to address long-term drought issues in the
23 West; and

24 (2) using the best available science, consider
25 issues including, water storage, water reuse, water

1 conservation, water for agriculture, municipal, and
2 industrial use, water for fisheries, drinking water,
3 water for Wildlife Refuges, and best-practices water
4 management.

5 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 4 months after the date
6 of the enactment of this section, the joint committee shall
7 vote on—

8 (1) a report that contains a detailed statement
9 of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of
10 the joint committee; and

11 (2) proposed legislative language to carry out
12 such recommendations.

13 (e) DATE.—Members of the joint committee shall be
14 appointed not later than 14 calendar days after the date
15 of the enactment of this section.

16 (f) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—Members shall be
17 appointed for the life of the joint committee. Any vacancy
18 in the joint committee shall not affect its powers, but shall
19 be filled not later than 14 calendar days after the date
20 on which the vacancy occurs, in the same manner as the
21 original designation was made. If a member of the joint
22 committee ceases to be a Member of the House of Rep-
23 resentatives or the Senate, as the case may be, the mem-
24 ber is no longer a member of the joint committee and a
25 vacancy shall exist.

1 (g) ETHICAL STANDARDS.—Members on the joint
2 committee who serve in the House of Representatives shall
3 be governed by the ethics rules and requirements of the
4 House. Members of the Senate who serve on the joint com-
5 mittee and staff of the joint committee shall comply with
6 the ethics rules of the Senate.

7 (h) TERMINATION.—The joint committee shall termi-
8 nate on December 31, 2014.

