AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT

117-54

OFFERED BY MR. NEGUSE OF COLORADO

At the appropriate place in division E, insert:

SECTION ___. UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION

FIREFIGHTER PAY.

(a) FEDERAL WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER PAY.—

(1) In general.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the minimum rate of basic pay for any Federal wildland firefighter position shall be not less than the rate of pay for step 3 of GS–6 of the General Schedule, as adjusted by the pay locality designated as “Rest of U.S.” under section 5304 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) Annual adjustments.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning in the first pay period beginning on or after the date that the pay scale is established under paragraph (1) and annually thereafter, the basic rate of pay for each Federal wildland firefighter occupying a position within such pay scale shall be increased by not less than the percentage equal to the percent change in the Consumer Price Index (all items—United States city
average), published monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, for December of the preceding year over such Consumer Price Index for the December of the year prior to the preceding year, adjusted to the nearest one-tenth of 1 percent.

(3) COMPENSATION COMPARABLE TO NON-FEDERAL FIREFIGHTERS.—Not later than 1 year after the date the pay scale is established under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior shall submit a report to Congress on whether pay, benefits, and bonuses provided to Federal wildland firefighters are comparable to the pay, benefits, and bonuses provided for non-Federal firefighters in the State or locality where Federal wildland firefighters are based.

(4) HAZARDOUS DUTY PAY.—Each Federal wildland firefighter carrying out work completed during prescribed fire, parachuting, tree climbing over 20 feet, hazard tree removal, and other hazardous work as identified by the Secretaries, shall be entitled to be paid the appropriate differential under section 5545(d) of title 5, United States Code, as if such employee was covered by such subsection. The Director may prescribe regulations to carry out this paragraph.
(5) **Federal Wildland Firefighter.**—In this section, the term “Federal wildland firefighter” means any temporary, seasonal, or permanent position at the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior that maintains group, emergency incident management, or fire qualifications, as established annually by the Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications published by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, and primarily engages in or supports wildland fire management activities, including forestry and rangeland technicians and positions concerning aviation, engineering heavy equipment operations, or fire and fuels management.

(b) **Pay Parity for Federal Structural Firefighters.**—

(1) **In General.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, any pay, benefits, and bonuses provided to any Federal structural firefighter shall be comparable with the pay, benefits, and bonuses provided for Federal wildland firefighters under this Act. Not later than 1 year after the date the pay scale is established under subsection (a)(1), the Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall submit a report to Congress on whether pay for such Federal structural
firefighters is competitive with Federal wildland firefighters.

(2) **Federal structural firefighter.**—In this section, the term “Federal structural firefighter”—

(A) has the meaning given the term “firefighter” in section 8401 of chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) does not include any Federal wildland firefighter.

(3) **Federal wildland firefighter.**—In this section, the term “Federal wildland firefighter” means any temporary, seasonal, or permanent position at the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior that maintains group, emergency incident management, or fire qualifications, as established annually by the Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications published by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, and primarily engages in or supports wildland fire management activities, including forestry and rangeland technicians and positions concerning aviation, engineering heavy equipment operations, or fire and fuels management.