AMENDMENT

TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 115–72

OFFERED BY MR. PAYNE OF NEW JERSEY

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ____ . INCLUSION OF ALTERNATIVE MEASURES FOR AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION.

(a) Amendment to Definition.—Section 1184(a)(2) of the WIIN Act (33 U.S.C. 2289a(a)(2)) is amended by striking “in coastal areas”.

(b) Inclusion of Alternative Measures.—Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (33 U.S.C. 2330) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

“(3) Use of Natural and Nature-Based Features.—

“(A) In General.—A project under this section may include a project for flood risk management or hurricane or storm damage reduction that uses or, with the consent of the non-Federal project sponsor, includes a natural feature or a nature-based feature (as those terms are defined in section 1184(a) of the
WIIN Act (33 U.S.C. 2289a(a)), if the Secretary determines that the use or inclusion—

“(i) will improve the quality of the environment;

“(ii) is in the public interest; and

“(iii) is cost-effective.

“(B) PRIORITY.—In selecting projects under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall give priority to projects that—

“(i) provide multiple benefits for flood control, aquatic ecosystem restoration, water quality, recreation, or navigation;

“(ii) demonstrate local community support, including a plan for engagement with relevant Federal and non-Federal interests; and

“(iii) include a plan for the long-term monitoring of project benefits.”; and

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking “There is” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There is”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) PROJECTS USING NATURAL AND NATURE-BASED FEATURES.—
“(A) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may use amounts made available under paragraph (1) to monitor and evaluate the benefits of any project carried out under subsection (a)(3).

“(B) DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may use amounts made available as supplemental appropriations for disaster relief to carry out projects under subsection (a)(3).

“(C) OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS.—Subject to the limitation under subsection (d), funds under this paragraph may be used in addition to other Federal funds to pay the incremental costs associated with the inclusion of a natural feature or a nature-based feature (as those terms are defined in section 1184(a) of the WIIN Act (33 U.S.C. 2289a(a))) in a project under this section for flood risk management or hurricane or storm damage reduction.”.