AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
OF H.R. 1947
OFFERED BY MR. PIERLUISI OF PUERTO RICO

At the end of title VIII, add the following new section:

SEC. 8408. TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) STATE.—The term “State” has the meaning given the term in section 6(f) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1645(f)).

(2) TROPICAL FOREST.—The term “tropical forest” means any area of forest land that is located between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.

(b) TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of tropical forest conservation, rehabilitation, reforestation, and research, the Secretary may—

(A) acquire tropical forest land, rights, title, and interests in tropical forest land in any State by purchase, donation, exchange, transfer, or interchange; and
(B) designate the land, rights, title, and
interests in land as National Forest System
land for national tropical research forests.

(2) Conservation Objectives.—The Sec-
retary shall manage each national tropical research
forest designated under this section in a manner
that protects and conserves indigenous flora and
fauna, water quality, streams and aquifers, and the
geological, ecological and other natural values.

(3) Research and Management Pract-
tices.—Research and land management practices
conducted in a national tropical research forest may
include—

   (A) silvicultural practices for restoration
   purposes; and

   (B) the control of ungulates and invasive
   species.

(4) Other Uses.—Public recreation and other
multiple uses may be allowed in a national tropical
research forest if the uses are compatible, and do
not interfere, with conservation objectives and re-
search and management practices.

(5) Applicable Laws.—

   (A) In General.—A national tropical re-
   search forest shall be managed in accordance
with the laws (including regulations) applicable
to the National Forest System and this section.

(B) HAWAII.—The Secretary may des-
ignate a national tropical research forest ac-
quired in Hawaii as a unit of the National For-
est System as a Hawaii Experimental Tropical
Forest in furtherance of the purposes of the
Hawaii Tropical Forest Recovery Act (Public
Law 102–574; 106 Stat. 4593) and the amend-
ments made by that Act.

(C) SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICABILITY.—This
section shall be considered supplemental to, and
not in derogation of—

(i) the Forest and Rangeland Renew-
able Resources Research Act of 1978 (16
U.S.C. 1641 et seq.);

(ii) title XXIV of Public Law 101–
624 (7 U.S.C. 6701 et seq.); and

(iii) the Hawaii Tropical Forest Re-
cover Act (Public Law 102–574; 106
Stat. 4593) and amendments made by that
Act.

(e) REALTY MANAGEMENT.—
(1) **WILLING SELLERS.**—Land and interests in land acquired under this section shall be from willing sellers only.

(2) **LAND VALUATION.**—Land and interests in land acquired under this section shall be valued—

(A) in accordance with appraisals prepared in conformity with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions developed by the Interagency Land Acquisition Conference; or

(B) for areas of land for which elements of value (such as physical characteristics and other amenities) are readily apparent and substantially similar, in accordance with market surveys or mass appraisal techniques approved by the Chief Appraiser of the Forest Service.

(3) **COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT.**—The Secretary may allow a unit of State or local government, an institution of higher education, or a non-profit organization to cooperate in the management of a national tropical research forest in accordance with such terms and conditions as the Secretary may establish.
(4) FUNDING.—For the acquisition of land and interests in land under this section, the Secretary may use amounts—

(A) donated for research purposes;

(B) derived and available from payments under any Federal permitting program for the mitigation or offset of environmental impacts; and

(C) derived and available from the sale or disposition of land pursuant to the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (43 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

(5) PUERTO RICO.—

(A) REVENUES FROM EL YUNQUE NATIONAL FOREST.—To fund land acquisition solely in Puerto Rico that is authorized by subsection (b)(1), in addition to the amounts otherwise made available under paragraph (4), the Secretary may use all amounts generated from El Yunque National Forest that are deposited in the National Forest Fund, other than those amounts required by law to be paid to Puerto Rico.

(B) EL YUNQUE NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—
(i) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that the Secretary acquires land that abuts the boundaries of El Yunque National Forest, the Secretary shall adjust the boundaries of El Yunque National Forest to include the acquired land.

(ii) RELATION TO OTHER LAW.—For purposes of section 7 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460l–9), the boundaries of El Yunque National Forest, as adjusted pursuant to this subparagraph, shall be considered to be boundaries of the National Forest as of January 1, 1965.

(d) INSTITUTES OF TROPICAL FORESTRY.—Section 2407 of title XXIV of Public Law 101–624 (7 U.S.C. 6701 et seq.) (7 U.S.C. 6706) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

(2) in the second sentence, by striking “The Institutes” and inserting the following:

“(b) ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND.—The Institutes may—
“(1) acquire and manage land, rights, title, and interests in land for tropical forest conservation purposes and research; and

“(2) provide public outreach and educational opportunities consistent with research and conservation objectives, including, to the maximum extent practicable, to international partners and allies.

“(c) RESEARCH.—The Institutes”.