AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116–63
OFFERED BY MS. PLASKETT OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

At the end of title II, add the following subtitle:

Subtitle G—Renewable Energy
Grant Program

SEC. 2701. RENEWABLE ENERGY GRANT PROGRAM.
(a) Establishment.—Not later than 180 days after
the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-
establish a renewable energy program (in this section re-
ferred to as the “program”) under which the Secretary
may award grants to covered entities to facilitate projects,
in territories of the United States, described in subsection
(c).
(b) Applications.—To be eligible for a grant under
the program, a covered entity shall submit to the Sec-
retary an application at such time, in such form, and con-
taining such information as the Secretary may require.
(c) Grant Uses.—
(1) In general.—A covered entity receiving a
grant under the program may use grant funds for
a project, in territories of the United States—
(A) to develop or construct a renewable energy system;

(B) to carry out an activity to increase energy efficiency;

(C) to develop or construct an energy storage system or device for—

(i) a system developed or constructed under subparagraph (A); or

(ii) an activity carried out under subparagraph (B);

(D) to develop or construct—

(i) a smart grid; or

(ii) a microgrid; or

(E) to train residents of territories of the United States to develop, construct, maintain, or operate a renewable energy system.

(2) LIMITATION.—A covered entity receiving a grant under the program may not use grant funds to develop or construct a facility that generates electricity using energy derived from—

(A) fossil fuels; or

(B) nuclear power.

(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall ensure that Department of Energy national laboratories offer to provide technical assistance to each covered entity
carrying out a project assisted with a grant under the pro-
gram.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the es-
establishment of the program, and on an annual basis there-
after, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report con-
taining—

(1) an estimate of the amount of funds dis-
bursed under the program;

(2) an estimate of the energy conservation
achieved as a result of the program;

(3) a description of challenges encountered in
implementing projects described in subsection (c)(1);

and

(4) recommendations as to additional legislative
measures to increase the use of renewable energy in
territories of the United States, as appropriate.

(f) GAO STUDY AND REPORT.—

(1) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than 180
days after the date of enactment of this section, the
Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(A) conduct a study regarding renewable
energy and energy efficiency in territories of the
United States; and

(B) submit to Congress a report con-
taining—
(i) the findings of the study; and

(ii) related recommendations.

(2) COMPONENTS.—The study conducted under paragraph (1) shall consider, in relation to territories of the United States, the potential—

(A) to modify existing electric power systems to use renewable energy sources;

(B) to expand the use of microgrids; and

(C) to improve energy resiliency.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered entity” means a not-for-profit organization determined eligible by the Secretary for purposes of this section.

(2) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL LABORATORIES.—The term “Department of Energy national laboratories” has the same meaning as the term “National Laboratory” under section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801).

(3) MICROGRID.—The term “microgrid” means an electric system—

(A) that serves the local community with a power generation and distribution system; and

(B) that has the ability—
(i) to disconnect from a traditional electric grid; and

(ii) to operate autonomously when disconnected.

(4) RENEWABLE ENERGY; RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEM.—The terms “renewable energy” and “renewable energy system” have the meanings given those terms in section 415(c) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6865(c)).

(5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Energy.

(6) SMART GRID.—The term “smart grid” means an intelligent electric grid that uses digital communications technology, information systems, and automation to, while maintaining high system reliability—

(A) detect and react to local changes in usage;

(B) improve system operating efficiency;

and

(C) reduce spending costs.

(7) TERRITORY.—The term “territory” means the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and
the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(h) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.