AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
OF H.R. 7
OFFERED BY MR. RIVERA OF FLORIDA

On page 954 of the bill after line 19, insert the following new section:

1 SEC. 17603. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING OFFSHORE
2 OIL PRODUCTION IN CUBAN EXCLUSIVE ECO-
3 NOMIC ZONE.
4
5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:
6
7 (1) Deep water drilling for oil has begun off the
8 coast of Cuba, approximately 60 miles away from
9 the United States coastline.
10 (2) There is significant threat to the United
11 States’ ocean and coastal natural and economic re-
12 sources from spills and releases as a result of these
13 oil drilling and production activities.
14 (3) The locations of the proposed drill sites are
15 very close to, or even beneath, the Gulf stream.
16 (4) This major current system would transport
17 pollutants (introducing spilled oil, associated drilling
18 products, and chemical dispersants) on the ocean
19 surface or via rising plumes of subsurface oil.
(5) There is limited information about where drilling products or spilled oil may be transported in the surface and subsurface ocean and on the general effects of oil spills and spill treatments on coral reef, oceanic, and coastal ecosystems.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a spill originating from foreign and international waters poses risks; and

(2) the Administration should develop a plan with the appropriate Federal agencies, partners in academia, and the private sector to coordinate the development of early detection technology in the case of a spill originating from foreign and international waters, and that such plan should include baseline assessments of physical and biological oceanography, toxicity studies on oil and dispersed oil on organisms and ecosystems, and detailed predictive models of where spilled oil and dispersed oil may be transported and what the impacts may be.