

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119-

22

OFFERED BY MR. RUIZ OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle D of title VI, add the following:

1 **SEC. ____ . DESIGNATION OF RURAL AREAS.**

2 (a) UNIFORM DEFINITION OF “RURAL AREA” FOR
3 USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 343(a)(13) of the
5 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7
6 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)) is amended—

7 (A) by striking subparagraphs (B) and
8 (C);

9 (B) in subparagraph (D), by striking
10 “(F)” each place it appears and inserting
11 “(D)”;

12 (C) in subparagraph (F)(ii), by striking
13 “consider—” and all that follows and inserting
14 “consider an area described in clause (i)(I) not
15 to be a rural area for purposes of subparagraph
16 (A).”; and

1 (D) by redesignating subparagraphs (D)
2 through (I) as subparagraphs (B) through (G),
3 respectively.

4 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO THE RURAL
5 ELECTRIFICATION ACT OF 1936.—

6 (A) Section 13(3) of the Rural Electrifica-
7 tion Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 913(3)) is amend-
8 ed—

9 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
10 “(C)” each place it appears and inserting
11 “(A)”;

12 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
13 “loan” and inserting “loan, or has had a
14 loan,” before “made under”.

15 (B) Section 203(b) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
16 924(b)) is amended to read as follows:

17 “(b) In this title, the term ‘rural area’ shall have the
18 meaning given the term in 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consoli-
19 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
20 1991(a)(13)(A)).”.

21 (C) Section 601(b)(3) of such Act (7
22 U.S.C. 950bb(b)(3)) is amended to read as fol-
23 lows:

24 “(3) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’ shall
25 have the meaning given the term in 343(a)(13)(A)

1 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development
2 Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A)).”.

3 (D) Section 604(a)(4) of such Act (7
4 U.S.C. 950bb-3(a)(4)) is amended to read as
5 follows:

6 “(4) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’ shall
7 have the meaning given the term in 343(a)(13)(A)
8 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development
9 Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A)).”.

10 (3) HOUSING PROVISIONS.—Section 520 of the
11 Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490) is amend-
12 ed—

13 (A) by striking the first sentence and in-
14 serting the following: “(a) IN GENERAL.—As
15 used in this title, the term ‘rural area’ shall
16 have the meaning given the term in
17 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and
18 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
19 1991(a)(13)(A)).”;

20 (B) by striking “For purposes of this title”
21 and inserting the following:

22 “(b) LEGACY AREAS.—For purposes of this title”;

23 (C) by striking “, and the city” and all
24 that follows through “year 2000”; and

25 (D) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(c) RURAL DEFINED.—As used in this title, the
2 term ‘rural’ shall have the meaning given the term ‘rural
3 area’ in subsection (a).”.

4 (b) EXPANSION OF “RURAL IN CHARACTER” AU-
5 THORITY.—Section 343(a)(13) of the Consolidated Farm
6 and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)) is
7 amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(J) AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE AREAS
9 WITH PERSISTENT POVERTY, HIGH CONCENTRA-
10 TION OF FARMWORKER HOUSEHOLDS, OR SIG-
11 NIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE GAPS AS RURAL
12 AREAS.—

13 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in
14 consultation with the Director of the Bu-
15 reau of the Census, may designate an area
16 that is a census tract, or a census-des-
17 ignated place or an unincorporated area
18 recognized by a local or tribal government
19 with fewer than 35,000 inhabitants, as a
20 rural area for purposes of this paragraph,
21 regardless of whether the area is within an
22 urban area, if the area exhibits persistent
23 poverty, a high concentration of farm-
24 worker households, or a significant infra-
25 structure gap.

1 “(ii) DEFINITIONS.—In this subpara-
2 graph:

3 “(I) PERSISTENT POVERTY.—

4 The term ‘persistent poverty’ means,
5 with respect to an area referred to in
6 clause (i), that the income of at least
7 20 percent of the population of the
8 area was below the poverty line (with-
9 in the meaning of section 673(2) of
10 the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation
11 Act of 1981, including any revision re-
12 quired by such section applicable to a
13 family of the size involved), as meas-
14 ured by the 1990, 2000, and 2010 de-
15 cennial censuses.

16 “(II) HIGH CONCENTRATION.—

17 The term ‘high concentration’ means
18 a percentage that significantly exceeds
19 the percentage of farmworker house-
20 holds in the United States or in the
21 State involved, as determined by the
22 Secretary.

23 “(III) SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUC-

24 TURE GAP.—The term ‘significant in-
25 frastructure gap’ means, with respect

1 to an area referred to in clause (i),
2 that the area lacks access to potable
3 water, wastewater treatment, or reli-
4 able electricity that meets Federal
5 standards, as determined by the rel-
6 evant State or local health department
7 and the relevant USDA Rural Devel-
8 opment field office.”.

9 (c) DESIGNATION OF HIGH-NEED RURAL POCKETS
10 AS RURAL AREAS.—Section 343(a)(13) of the Consoli-
11 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
12 1991(a)(13)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(K) HIGH-NEED RURAL POCKETS.—

15 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In making deter-
16 minations under this paragraph, the Sec-
17 retary shall use indicators (such as Rural-
18 Urban Commuting Area codes) at the cen-
19 sus tract level to prioritize and maintain
20 eligibility for small, geographically distinct
21 settlements (whether or not incorporated)
22 that are surrounded by an urban area but
23 lack urban services and have a poverty rate
24 of at least 20 percent, including tribal

1 lands and farmworker settlements, to be
2 designated as rural areas.

3 “(ii) FARMWORKER SETTLEMENT.—
4 In this subparagraph, the term ‘farm-
5 worker settlement’ means an area in which
6 more than 50 percent of the households
7 derive their primary income from agricul-
8 tural labor or are headed by an individual
9 who is or recently was employed in agri-
10 culture, as verified using American Com-
11 munity Survey data on industry and occu-
12 pation and local data provided by State or
13 tribal labor agencies.”.

14 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
15 this section shall take effect 180 days after the date of
16 the enactment of this Act.

17 (e) RULEMAKING.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture
19 shall prescribe such rules as are necessary with re-
20 spect to implementing the amendments made by this
21 section.

22 (2) GRANDFATHER PROVISION.—A rural area
23 designation made under section 343(a)(13) of the
24 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act be-
25 fore the effective date of this section shall not be

1 changed by reason of any amendment made by this
2 section, before data from the 2030 decennial census
3 is available.

