

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT

119-22

OFFERED BY MS. SALINAS OF OREGON

At the end of part III of subtitle D of title VIII, add
the following:

1 **SEC. 8435. WOOD BUILDING EDUCATION ACCELERATOR**
2 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

4 (1) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible enti-
5 ty” means—

6 (A) an engineering, architecture, or design
7 school at an institution of higher education; or

8 (B) a center of excellence that consists of
9 1 or more partnerships between forestry, engi-
10 neering, architecture, or business schools at 1
11 or more institutions of higher education.

12 (2) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
13 the Secretary, acting through the Deputy Chief of
14 Research and Development of the Forest Service
15 and the Deputy Chief of State, Private, and Tribal
16 Forestry of the Forest Service.

17 (b) **GRANT PROGRAM.**—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
2 a program, to be known as the “Wood Building
3 Education Accelerator Grant Program”, to annually
4 award grants to geographically diverse eligible enti-
5 ties to support the development of curricula, pro-
6 grams, and best practices relating to the critical ele-
7 ments of designing and building with wood, includ-
8 ing the use of traditional wood products, mass tim-
9 ber, and other advanced wood products.

10 (2) PROPOSALS.—To be eligible to receive a
11 grant under this subsection, an eligible entity shall
12 submit to the Secretary a proposal at such time, in
13 such manner, and containing such information as
14 the Secretary may require.

15 (3) REVIEW AND AWARDS.—The Secretary shall
16 review proposals submitted under paragraph (2),
17 and award grants under this subsection, in consulta-
18 tion with nonprofit organizations, research organiza-
19 tions, or other private entities providing funding to
20 eligible entities to support activities carried out
21 using grants under this section.

22 (c) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—As a condition of re-
23 ceiving a grant under subsection (b)(1), an eligible entity
24 shall provide funds equal to the amount received by the

1 eligible entity under the grant, to be derived from non-
2 Federal sources.

3 (d) **LIMITATION ON AMOUNT.**—The total amount of
4 grants awarded under subsection (b)(1) shall be not more
5 than \$10,000,000 for each fiscal year.

6 (e) **ALLOCATION.**—Subject to the availability of ap-
7 propriations made in advance for such purposes, the Sec-
8 retary shall allocate to carry out this section not more
9 than \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through
10 2031.

11 **SEC. 8436. RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND BUILDING PILOT**
12 **PROGRAM.**

13 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

14 (1) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible enti-
15 ty” means—

16 (A) a nonprofit organization;

17 (B) a community-based organization;

18 (C) a State, local, or municipal govern-
19 ment;

20 (D) a tribally designated housing author-
21 ity;

22 (E) a private entity, as determined by the
23 Secretary; and

24 (F) a consortium of 2 or more entities de-
25 scribed in subparagraphs (A) through (E).

1 (2) PRODUCED AND ASSEMBLED IN THE
2 UNITED STATES.—The term “produced and assem-
3 bled in the United States”, with regard to wood ma-
4 terials, means that—

5 (A) the wood materials, if manufactured,
6 were manufactured entirely in the United
7 States; and

8 (B) if the wood materials were produced,
9 all production occurred entirely in the United
10 States.

11 (3) PUBLIC AGENCY.—The term “public agen-
12 cy” means a department, agency, other unit, or in-
13 strumentality of Federal, State, Tribal, or local gov-
14 ernment.

15 (4) RURAL.—The term “rural” has the mean-
16 ing given the term in section 343(a) of the Consoli-
17 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
18 1991(a)).

19 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
20 the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary
21 for Rural Development, in consultation with the
22 Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Envi-
23 ronment.

24 (b) GRANT PROGRAM.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
2 grants to eligible entities to carry out pilot projects
3 to demonstrate the use of innovative wood products,
4 systems, and technologies, such as mass timber, in
5 the construction and renovation of rural infrastruc-
6 ture and building projects.

7 (2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a
8 grant under this subsection, an eligible entity shall
9 submit to the Secretary an application at such time,
10 in such manner, and containing such information as
11 the Secretary may require.

12 (c) PROJECT REQUIREMENTS.—A pilot project car-
13 ried out using a grant received under subsection (b)(1)
14 shall—

15 (1) be not longer than 5 years;

16 (2) include collaboration between 1 or more eli-
17 gible entities and 1 or more public agencies;

18 (3) primarily use for construction materials
19 wood products that are manufactured and prefab-
20 ricated offsite and assembled onsite as a kit-of-parts
21 or by assembling finished modules;

22 (4) to the extent practicable, use wood mate-
23 rials that are produced and assembled in the United
24 States; and

1 (5) be located in or provide benefits to a rural
2 community that, to the extent practicable, has a his-
3 tory in wood products manufacturing.

4 (d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—As a condition of re-
5 ceiving a grant under subsection (b)(1), an eligible entity
6 shall provide funds, to be derived from non-Federal
7 sources—

8 (1) except as provided in paragraph (2), equal
9 to the amount of the grant; or

10 (2) in the case of a pilot project serving a popu-
11 lation of—

12 (A) less than 19,000 residents, equal to 50
13 percent of the amount of the grant; or

14 (B) less than 2,500 residents, equal to 25
15 percent of the amount of the grant.

16 (e) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT.—The total amount of
17 grants awarded under subsection (b)(1) shall be not more
18 than \$10,000,000 for each fiscal year.

19 (f) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall provide for an
20 independent evaluation of pilot projects carried out under
21 this section that includes—

22 (1) a summary of the activities conducted under
23 the pilot projects;

24 (2) an assessment of the effectiveness of the
25 project requirements described in subsection (c); and

1 (3) best practices regarding the use of public-
2 private partnerships for increased wood utilization to
3 benefit rural communities.

4 (g) ALLOCATION.—Subject to the availability of ap-
5 propriations made in advance for such purposes, the Sec-
6 retary shall allocate to carry out this section not more
7 than \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through
8 2031.

