AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
FOR H.R. 8
OFFERED BY MS. SCHAKOWSKY OF ILLINOIS

Page 224, strike line 15 and all that follows through page 226, line 21, and insert the following:

1 “SEC. 319. OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCACY AND COMPLI-
2 ANCE ASSISTANCE.
3 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within
4 the Commission the Office of Consumer Advocacy and
5 Compliance Assistance.
6 “(b) DIRECTOR.—The Office shall be headed by a Di-
7 rector to be appointed by the President by and with the
8 advice and consent of the Senate from among individuals
9 who are licensed attorneys admitted to the Bar of any
10 State or of the District of Columbia and who have experi-
11 ence in public utility proceedings.
12 “(c) DUTIES.—The Office may—
13 “(1) intervene, appear, and participate, in ac-
14 cordance with this section, in administrative, regu-
15 latory, or judicial proceedings on behalf of energy
16 customers with respect to any matter concerning
17 rates, charges, prices, tariffs, or service of public
18 utilities and natural-gas companies under the juris-
dication of the Commission by representing the interests of energy customers—

“(A) on matters before the Commission concerning rates or service of public utilities and natural-gas companies under the jurisdiction of the Commission;

“(B) as amicus curiae, in the review in the courts of the United States of rulings by the Commission in such matters; or

“(C) as amicus curiae, in hearings and proceedings in other Federal regulatory agencies and commissions related to such matters;

“(2) monitor and review energy customer complaints and grievances on matters concerning rates or service of public utilities and natural-gas companies under the jurisdiction of the Commission;

“(3) investigate independently, or within the context of formal proceedings, the services provided by, the rates charged by, and the valuation of the properties of, public utilities and natural-gas companies under the jurisdiction of the Commission;

“(4) develop means, such as public dissemination of information, consultative services, and technical assistance, to ensure, to the extent practicable, that the interests of energy customers are ade-
quately represented in the course of any hearing or proceeding described in paragraph (1);

“(5) collect data concerning rates or service of public utilities and natural-gas companies under the jurisdiction of the Commission;

“(6) prepare and issue reports and recommendations; and

“(7) take other actions as the Office determines necessary to ensure just and reasonable rates for energy customers.

“(d) COMPENSATION AND POWERS.—The Director shall be compensated at Level IV of the Executive Schedule. The Director may—

“(1) employ not more than 125 full-time professional employees at appropriate levels in the GS Scale and such additional support personnel as required; and

“(2) procure temporary and intermittent services as needed.

“(e) INFORMATION FROM OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The Director may request, from any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States such information as the Director determines necessary to carry out the Director’s functions under this section. Upon such request, the head of the department, agency, or instrumenta-
tality concerned shall, to the extent practicable and au-
thorized by law, provide such information to the Office.

“(f) REPORTS AND GUIDANCE.—The Director shall,
as the Director determines appropriate, issue reports and
guidance to the Commission and to entities subject to reg-
ulation by the Commission, regarding market practices,
proposing improvements in Commission monitoring of
market practices, and addressing potential improvements
to both industry and Commission practices.

“(g) OUTREACH.—The Director shall promote im-
proved compliance with Commission rules and orders
through outreach, publications, and, where appropriate,
direct communication with entities regulated by the Com-
mission.”.