

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-**

**54**

**OFFERED BY MS. SCHRIER OF WASHINGTON**

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following  
new section:

1 **SEC. 10\_\_ . ASSESSMENT, PLAN, AND REPORTS ON THE**  
2 **AUTOMATED SURFACE OBSERVING SYSTEM.**

3 (a) **JOINT ASSESSMENT AND PLAN.—**

4 (1) **IN GENERAL.—**The Secretary of Defense, in  
5 collaboration with the Administrator of the Federal  
6 Aviation Administration and the Under Secretary of  
7 Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, shall—

8 (A) conduct an assessment of resources,  
9 personnel, procedures, and activities necessary  
10 to maximize the functionality and utility of the  
11 automated surface observing system of the  
12 United States that identifies—

13 (i) key system upgrades needed to im-  
14 prove observation quality and utility for  
15 weather forecasting, aviation safety, and  
16 other users;

1 (ii) improvements needed in observa-  
2 tions within the planetary boundary layer,  
3 including mixing height;

4 (iii) improvements needed in public  
5 accessibility of observational data;

6 (iv) improvements needed to reduce  
7 latency in reporting of observational data;

8 (v) relevant data to be collected for  
9 the production of forecasts or forecast  
10 guidance relating to atmospheric composi-  
11 tion, including particulate and air quality  
12 data, and aviation safety;

13 (vi) areas of concern regarding oper-  
14 ational continuity and reliability of the sys-  
15 tem, which may include needs for on-night  
16 staff, particularly in remote and rural  
17 areas and areas where system failure  
18 would have the greatest negative impact to  
19 the community;

20 (vii) stewardship, data handling, data  
21 distribution, and product generation needs  
22 arising from upgrading and changing the  
23 automated surface observation systems;

24 (viii) possible solutions for areas of  
25 concern identified under clause (vi), includ-

1 ing with respect to the potential use of  
2 backup systems, power and communication  
3 system reliability, staffing needs and per-  
4 sonnel location, and the acquisition of crit-  
5 ical component backups and proper storage  
6 location to ensure rapid system repair nec-  
7 essary to ensure system operational con-  
8 tinuity; and

9 (ix) research, development, and transi-  
10 tion to operations needed to develop ad-  
11 vanced data collection, quality control, and  
12 distribution so that the data are provided  
13 to models, users, and decision support sys-  
14 tems in a timely manner; and

15 (B) develop and implement a plan that ad-  
16 dresses the findings of the assessment con-  
17 ducted under subparagraph (A), including by  
18 seeking and allocating resources necessary to  
19 ensure that system upgrades are standardized  
20 across the Department of Defense, the Federal  
21 Aviation Administration, and the National Oce-  
22 anic and Atmospheric Administration to the ex-  
23 tent practicable.

24 (2) STANDARDIZATION.—Any system standard-  
25 ization implemented under paragraph (1)(B) shall

1 not impede activities to upgrade or improve indi-  
2 vidual units of the system.

3 (3) REMOTE AUTOMATIC WEATHER STATION  
4 COORDINATION.—The Secretary of Defense, in col-  
5 laboration with relevant Federal agencies and the  
6 National Interagency Fire Center, shall assess and  
7 develop cooperative agreements to improve coordina-  
8 tion, interoperability standards, operations, and  
9 placement of remote automatic weather stations for  
10 the purpose of improving utility and coverage of re-  
11 mote automatic weather stations, automated surface  
12 observation systems, and other similar stations and  
13 systems for weather and climate operations.

14 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after  
16 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
17 of Defense, in collaboration with the Administrator  
18 of the Federal Aviation Administration and the  
19 Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and At-  
20 mosphere, shall submit to the appropriate congres-  
21 sional committees a report that—

22 (A) details the findings of the assessment  
23 required by subparagraph (A) of subsection  
24 (a)(1); and

1 (B) the plan required by subparagraph (B)  
2 of such subsection.

3 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by para-  
4 graph (1) shall include a detailed assessment of ap-  
5 propriations required—

6 (A) to address the findings of the assess-  
7 ment required by subparagraph (A) of sub-  
8 section (a)(1); and

9 (B) to implement the plan required by sub-  
10 paragraph (B) of such subsection.

11 (c) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE RE-  
12 PORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of the enact-  
13 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United  
14 States shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-  
15 mittees a report that—

16 (1) evaluates the functionality, utility, reli-  
17 ability, and operational status of the automated sur-  
18 face observing system across the Department of De-  
19 fense, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the  
20 Administration;

21 (2) evaluates the progress, performance, and  
22 implementation of the plan required by subsection  
23 (a)(1)(B);

24 (3) assesses the efficacy of cross-agency collabo-  
25 ration and stakeholder engagement in carrying out

1 the plan and provides recommendations to improve  
2 such activities;

3 (4) evaluates the operational continuity and re-  
4 liability of the system, particularly in remote and  
5 rural areas and areas where system failure would  
6 have the greatest negative impact to the community,  
7 and provides recommendations to improve such con-  
8 tinuity and reliability;

9 (5) assesses Federal coordination regarding the  
10 remote automatic weather station network, air re-  
11 source advisors, and other Federal observing assets  
12 used for weather and climate modeling and response  
13 activities, and provides recommendations for im-  
14 provements; and

15 (6) includes such other recommendations as the  
16 Comptroller General determines are appropriate to  
17 improve the system.

18 (d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES  
19 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-  
20 gressional committees” means the following:

21 (1) The Committee on Armed Services of the  
22 House of Representatives.

23 (2) The Committee on Armed Services of the  
24 Senate.

1           (3) The Committee on Transportation and In-  
2           frastructure of the House of Representatives.

3           (4) The Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
4           Transportation of the Senate.

5           (5) The Committee on Science, Space, and  
6           Technology of the House of Representatives.

