

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-31
OFFERED BY MS. SHERRILL OF NEW JERSEY

At the end of title III of division C, add the following:

1 **SEC. 20303. IMPROVING THE NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION**
2 **SYSTEM.**

3 (a) PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Energy shall estab-
4 lish a grant program to provide financial assistance to
5 States to offset the incremental rate increases paid by low-
6 income households resulting from the implementation of
7 infrastructure replacement, repair, and maintenance pro-
8 grams that are approved by the rate-setting entity and de-
9 signed to accelerate the necessary replacement, repair, or
10 maintenance of natural gas distribution systems.

11 (b) DATE OF ELIGIBILITY.—Awards may be provided
12 under this section to offset rate increases described in sub-
13 section (a) occurring on or after the date of enactment
14 of this Act.

15 (c) PRIORITIZATION.—The Secretary shall collabo-
16 rate with States to prioritize the distribution of grants
17 made under this section. At a minimum, the Secretary

1 shall consider prioritizing the distribution of grants to
2 States which have—

3 (1) authorized or adopted enhanced infrastruc-
4 ture replacement programs or innovative rate recov-
5 ery mechanisms, such as infrastructure cost trackers
6 and riders, infrastructure base rate surcharges, de-
7 ferred regulatory asset programs, and earnings sta-
8 bility mechanisms; and

9 (2) a viable means for delivering financial as-
10 sistance to low-income households.

11 (d) AUDITING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—
12 The Secretary shall establish auditing and reporting re-
13 quirements for States with respect to the performance of
14 eligible projects funded pursuant to grants awarded under
15 this section.

16 (e) PREVAILING WAGES.—All laborers and mechanics
17 employed by contractors or subcontractors in the perform-
18 ance of construction, alteration, or repair work assisted,
19 in whole or in part, by a grant under this section shall
20 be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on
21 similar construction in the locality as determined by the
22 Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of
23 chapter 31 of title 40. With respect to the labor standards
24 in this subsection, the Secretary of Labor shall have the
25 authority and functions set forth in Reorganization Plan

1 Numbered 14 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1267; 5 U.S.C. App.) and
2 section 3145 of title 40.

3 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) INNOVATIVE RATE RECOVERY MECHA-
5 NISMS.—The term “innovative rate recovery mecha-
6 nisms” means rate structures that allow State public
7 utility commissions to modify tariffs and recover
8 costs of investments in utility replacement incurred
9 between rate cases.

10 (2) LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLD.—The term
11 “low-income household” means a household that is
12 eligible to receive payments under section 2605(b)(2)
13 of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of
14 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8624(b)(2)).

15 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
16 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
17 out this section \$250,000,000 in each of fiscal years 2022
18 through 2031.

