AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 115–70
OFFERED BY MR. SOTO OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle F of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 12. AUTHORIZATION OF UNITED STATES-ISRAEL
EXPANDED-BINATIONAL AGRICULTURAL
DEMONSTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND.

(a) In General.—The Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, is authorized to establish a program for cooperative demonstration and development in agriculture with the Government of Israel.

(b) Existing Authority.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish and carry out the program authorized under subsection (a) in a manner consistent with the Secretary’s authority under section 1458 of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3291)

(c) Purpose.—The purpose of the program authorized under subsection (a) shall be to accelerate the demonstration, development, and application of agriculture solutions resulting from or related to the BARD program.
(d) **Activities Supported.**—Activities that may be supported under the program authorized under subsection (a) include—

(1) activities authorized under the Agreement to establish the United States-Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund (BARD);

(2) activities authorized under section 1458 of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977; and

(3) support Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 4-6 pilot and demonstration projects.

(e) **Nongovernmental and Private Entities.**—Projects and activities under the program authorized under subsection (a) may be carried out by nongovernmental and private entities, including through collaboration with private universities, research institutions, and corporations if such projects and activities support the objectives of the Agreement to establish the United States-Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund (BARD).

(f) **Authorization of Appropriations.**—

(1) In general.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture $2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023 to carry out this section.
(2) **Fund; Availability.**—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under paragraph (1)—

(A) shall be known as the “United States-Israel Expanded-Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund” or “E–BARD Fund”; and

(B) are authorized to remain available until expended.

(3) **Transfer Authority.**—The Secretary of Agriculture may transfer amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under paragraph (1) to the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, including the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development, for purposes of carrying out the program authorized under subsection (a).

(g) **Binational Task Force.**—

(1) **In General.**—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture, is authorized to seek to establish a binational task force to provide guidance and oversight with respect to the program authorized under subsection (a), including to identify funding priorities and innovative develop-
ments in agriculture in evaluating projects under the program.

(2) Sense of Congress.—It is the sense of Congress that the task force established under paragraph (1) should be comprised of the following:

(A) The Secretary of Agriculture.

(B) The Israeli Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development.

(C) Members of the board of directors of the BARD Fund.


(E) The chief scientist of the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture and the director of the Agricultural Research Organization–Volcani Center.

(F) The Chief Scientist of the Israel Innovation Authority.