

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:

1 **SEC. 12 ____ . AUTHORIZATION OF UNITED STATES-ISRAEL**
2 **EXPANDED-BINATIONAL AGRICULTURAL**
3 **DEMONSTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, in
5 coordination with the Secretary of State and the Adminis-
6 trator of the United States Agency for International De-
7 velopment, is authorized to establish a program for coop-
8 erative demonstration and development in agriculture with
9 the Government of Israel.

10 (b) EXISTING AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Agri-
11 culture shall establish and carry out the program author-
12 ized under subsection (a) in a manner consistent with the
13 Secretary’s authority under section 1458 of the Food and
14 Agriculture Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3291)

15 (c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program author-
16 ized under subsection (a) shall be to accelerate the dem-
17 onstration, development, and application of agriculture so-
18 lutions resulting from or related to the BARD program.

1 (d) ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.—Activities that may be
2 supported under the program authorized under subsection
3 (a) include—

4 (1) activities authorized under the Agreement
5 to establish the United States-Israel Binational Ag-
6 ricultural Research and Development Fund
7 (BARD);

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

10 (3) support Technology Readiness Level (TRL)
11 4-6 pilot and demonstration projects.

12 (e) NONGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE ENTITIES.—
13 Projects and activities under the program authorized
14 under subsection (a) may be carried out by nongovern-
15 mental and private entities, including through collabora-
16 tion with private universities, research institutions, and
17 corporations if such projects and activities support the ob-
18 jectives of the Agreement to establish the United States-
19 Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development
20 Fund (BARD).

21 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
23 appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture
24 \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through
25 2023 to carry out this section.

1 (2) FUND; AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appro-
2 priated pursuant to the authorization of appropria-
3 tions under paragraph (1)—

4 (A) shall be known as the “United States-
5 Israel Expanded-Binational Agricultural Re-
6 search and Development Fund” or “E-BARD
7 Fund”; and

8 (B) are authorized to remain available
9 until expended.

10 (3) TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of
11 Agriculture may transfer amounts appropriated pur-
12 suant to the authorization of appropriations under
13 paragraph (1) to the heads of other relevant Federal
14 departments and agencies, including the Department
15 of State and the United States Agency for Inter-
16 national Development, for purposes of carrying out
17 the program authorized under subsection (a).

18 (g) BINATIONAL TASK FORCE.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in
20 coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture, is au-
21 thorized to seek to establish a binational task force
22 to provide guidance and oversight with respect to the
23 program authorized under subsection (a), including
24 to identify funding priorities and innovative develop-

1 ments in agriculture in evaluating projects under the
2 program.

3 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
4 Congress that the task force established under para-
5 graph (1) should be comprised of the following:

6 (A) The Secretary of Agriculture.

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

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

11 (D) The administrators of the Agriculture
12 Research Service, Economic Research Service,
13 and the National Institute of Food and Agri-
14 culture.

15 (E) The chief scientist of the Israeli Min-
16 istry of Agriculture and the director of the Ag-
17 ricultural Research Organization—Volcani Cen-
18 ter.

19 (F) The Chief Scientist of the Israel Inno-
20 vation Authority.

