

AMENDMENT
TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-8
OFFERED BY MS. STEVENS OF MICHIGAN

At the end of subtitle A of title V of division B, add the following:

1 SEC. 5119. RESILIENT TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

2 CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.

3 (a) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—The Secretary of
4 Transportation shall award grants to establish 5 Centers
5 of Excellence to advance research and development that
6 improves the resilience of regions of the United States to
7 natural disasters, extreme weather, and the effects of cli-
8 mate change on surface transportation infrastructure.

9 (b) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out this section, the
10 Secretary shall ensure the Centers promote resilient sur-
11 face transportation infrastructure through—

12 (1) supporting the research and development of
13 design, operations, and maintenance standards rel-
14 evant to surface transportation that consider exist-
15 ing and anticipated impacts of natural disasters, ex-
16 treme weather, and climate change;

17 (2) research, development, and technology
18 transfer of resilient materials and technologies into

1 existing and future surface transportation infra-
2 structure; and

3 (3) development and dissemination of tools,
4 techniques, and information that informs federal,
5 state, and local government decision-making, poli-
6 cies, planning, and investments.

7 (c) CENTER COORDINATION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

9 (A) coordinate activities of all five Centers
10 to prevent duplication; and

11 (B) promote dissemination of research
12 among awardees.

13 (2) PROGRAM EVALUATION AND OVERSIGHT.—

14 The Secretary may expend not more than 1 and a
15 half percent of the amounts made available to the
16 Secretary to carry out this section for any coordina-
17 tion, evaluation, and oversight activities, of the Sec-
18 retary under this Section.

19 (d) ELIGIBILITY.—An institution of higher education,
20 as defined by section 102 of the Higher Education Act
21 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002), or a consortium of institutions
22 of higher education shall be eligible to receive grants under
23 this program.

24 (e) COMPETITIVE SELECTION PROCESS.—

1 (1) APPLICATIONS.—To receive a grant under
2 this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the
3 Secretary an application that is in such form and
4 contains such information as the Secretary may re-
5 quire.

6 (2) RESTRICTION.—A recipient may only re-
7 ceive 1 grant per fiscal year under this section.

8 (3) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In awarding a
9 grant under this section, the Secretary shall—

10 (A) give preference to the applicant’s past
11 performance in the activities under subsection
12 (b);

13 (B) consider the extent to which an appli-
14 cant’s proposal would involve participation by
15 local, regional, and national stakeholders; and

16 (C) consider the local, regional, and na-
17 tional impacts of the applicant’s proposal.

18 (4) LOCATION.—In awarding a grant under this
19 section, the Secretary shall select centers located in
20 diverse geographic regions that represent a variety
21 of experiences with natural disasters, extreme weath-
22 er patterns, and climate change impacts.

23 (f) FEDERAL SHARE.—As a condition of receiving an
24 award under this section, an award recipient shall match

1 50 percent of the amounts made available under the
2 award.

3 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
5 appropriated to the Secretary such sums as nec-
6 essary for grants under this section.

7 (2) LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF
8 AMOUNTS.—Amounts made available to the Sec-
9 retary to carry out this section shall remain avail-
10 able for obligation by the Secretary for a period of
11 3 years after the last day of the fiscal year for which
12 the amounts are authorized.

13 (h) REPORTING.—In general, on a biannual basis, the
14 Secretary shall—

15 (1) review and evaluate the programs carried
16 out under this section by grant recipients; and

17 (2) submit to the Committees on Transpor-
18 tation and Infrastructure and Science, Space, and
19 Technology of the House of Representatives and the
20 Committees on Environment and Public Works and
21 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
22 ate a report describing that review and evaluation.

23 (i) INFORMATION COLLECTION.—Any survey, ques-
24 tionnaire, or interview that the Secretary determines to
25 be necessary to carry out reporting requirements relating

1 to any program assessment or evaluation activity under
2 this section, including customer satisfaction assessments,
3 shall not be subject to chapter 35 of title 44, United
4 States Code.

