AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 115–70
OFFERED BY MR. SUOZZI OF NEW YORK

At the end of subtitle B of title III, insert the following:

SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAMS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Department of Defense has identified nearly 39,500 sites that fall under the installation restoration program sites and munitions response sites.

(2) The installation response program addresses contamination from hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants and active military installations, formerly used defense site properties, and base realignment and closure locations in the United States.

(3) Munitions response sites are known or suspected to contain unexploded ordnance, discarded military munitions, or munitions constitutes are ad-
dressed through the military munitions response program.

(4) The installation restoration program sites and munitions response sites have had significant impacts on state and local governments that have had to bear the increased costs of environmental degradation, notably groundwater contamination, and local populations that have had to live with the consequences of contaminated drinking, including increased health concerns and decreasing property values.

(5) Through the end of fiscal year 2017, the Department of Defense had achieved response complete at 86 percent of installation restoration program sites and munitions response sites, but projects that it will fall short of meeting its goal of 90 percent by the end of fiscal year 2018.

(6) The fiscal year 2019 budget request for environmental restoration and base realignment and closure amounted to nearly $1,318,320,000, a decrease of $53,429,000 from the amount authorized in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91).

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—
(1) the environmental restoration and base realignment and closure programs are important for the protection of the environment, the health of the military and civilian personnel and their families who live and work on military installations, to ensure that current and legacy military operations do not adversely affect the health or environments of surrounding communities;

(2) the Department of Defense and the Armed Forces should seek to reduce the financial burden on state and local government who are bearing significant costs of cleanup stemming from defense related activities;

(3) the Department of Defense and the Armed Forces should expedite and streamline cleanup at locations where contamination is having a direct impact on civilian access to clean drinking water;

(4) the Department of Defense and the Armed Forces should continue to engage with and help allay local community concerns about the safety of the drinking water due to environmental degradation caused by defense related activities; and

(5) the Department of Defense should seek opportunities to accelerate environmental restoration efforts where feasible, to include programming addi-
tional resources for response actions, investing in technology solutions that may expedite response actions, improving contracting procedures, increasing contracting capacity, and seeking opportunities for partnerships and other cooperative approaches.

(c) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than 120 days after enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment shall provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives on initiatives being pursued to accelerate environmental restoration efforts.