

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:

1 **SEC. 3___ . DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL**
2 **RESTORATION PROGRAMS.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
4 ings:

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

9 (2) The installation response program addresses
10 contamination from hazardous substances, pollut-
11 ants, or contaminants and active military installa-
12 tions, formerly used defense site properties, and base
13 realignment and closure locations in the United
14 States.

15 (3) Munitions response sites are known or sus-
16 pected to contain unexploded ordnance, discarded
17 military munitions, or munitions constitutes are ad-

1 dressed through the military munitions response
2 program.

3 (4) The installation restoration program sites
4 and munitions response sites have had significant
5 impacts on state and local governments that have
6 had to bear the increased costs of environmental
7 degradation, notably groundwater contamination,
8 and local populations that have had to live with the
9 consequences of contaminated drinking, including in-
10 creased health concerns and decreasing property val-
11 ues.

12 (5) Through the end of fiscal year 2017, the
13 Department of Defense had achieved response com-
14 plete at 86 percent of installation restoration pro-
15 gram sites and munitions response sites, but
16 projects that it will fall short of meeting its goal of
17 90 percent by the end of fiscal year 2018.

18 (6) The fiscal year 2019 budget request for en-
19 vironmental restoration and base realignment and
20 closure amounted to nearly \$1,318,320,000, a de-
21 crease of \$53,429,000 from the amount authorized
22 in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
23 Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91).

24 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
25 gress that—

1 (1) the environmental restoration and base re-
2 alignment and closure programs are important for
3 the protection of the environment, the health of the
4 military and civilian personnel and their families
5 who live and work on military installations, to en-
6 sure that current and legacy military operations do
7 not adversely affect the health or environments of
8 surrounding communities;

9 (2) the Department of Defense and the Armed
10 Forces should seek to reduce the financial burden on
11 state and local government who are bearing signifi-
12 cant costs of cleanup stemming from defense related
13 activities;

14 (3) the Department of Defense and the Armed
15 Forces should expedite and streamline cleanup at lo-
16 cations where contamination is having a direct im-
17 pact on civilian access to clean drinking water;

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

23 (5) the Department of Defense should seek op-
24 portunities to accelerate environmental restoration
25 efforts where feasible, to include programming addi-

1 tional resources for response actions, investing in
2 technology solutions that may expedite response ac-
3 tions, improving contracting procedures, increasing
4 contracting capacity, and seeking opportunities for
5 partnerships and other cooperative approaches.

6 (c) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than 120 days
7 after enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary of De-
8 fense for Energy, Installations, and Environment shall
9 provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services
10 of the Senate and House of Representatives on initiatives
11 being pursued to accelerate environmental restoration ef-
12 forts.

