

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 115-

70

OFFERED BY MR. THORNBERRY OF TEXAS

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

1 **SEC. 3___ . JOINT STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF WIND FARMS**
2 **ON WEATHER RADARS AND MILITARY OPER-**
3 **ATIONS.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall
5 enter into an arrangement with the National Oceanic and
6 Atmospheric Administration to conduct a study on the im-
7 pact wind farms have on weather radars and subsequently
8 Department of Defense operations and readiness.

9 (b) **ELEMENTS.**—The study required pursuant to
10 subsection (a) shall include the following:

11 (1) The potential impacts of wind farms on
12 NEXRAD radars and other Federal radars used by
13 the Department of Defense, the National Oceanic
14 and Atmospheric Administration, and the National
15 Weather Service for weather forecasts and warnings.

16 (2) The subsequent impacts of wind farms on
17 Department of Defense aviation readiness, includ-
18 ing—

1 (A) Department of Defense air traffic con-
2 trol radars;

3 (B) minimum vectoring altitudes, in par-
4 ticular around military flight training bases;

5 (C) air-to-ground drop zones;

6 (D) air-to-ground bombing and test
7 ranges;

8 (E) military operating areas that extend to
9 the surface;

10 (F) military training routes;

11 (G) over-the-horizon radars; and

12 (H) Department of Defense weather ra-
13 dars.

14 (3) Examples of when interference from the
15 wind farms has affected the ability of the National
16 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to forecast
17 or warn for dangerous weather.

18 (4) Recommendations to reduce, mitigate, or
19 eliminate the potential impacts.

20 (5) An analysis of the distance that wind tur-
21 bines need to be away from the radars to ensure no
22 impact.

23 (6) Recommendations for addressing the im-
24 pacts to NEXRADs and weather radar due to in-
25 creasing turbine heights.

1 (7) Recommendations to reduce or eliminate
2 impacts of existing wind turbines, including those
3 projects that are being repowered by developers to
4 increase turbine heights.

5 (8) Recommendations to ensure wind farms do
6 not impact the ability of the National Oceanic and
7 Atmospheric Administration and the National
8 Weather Service to warn or forecast hazardous
9 weather.

10 (9) The cumulative impacts of multiple wind
11 farms near a single radar on the ability of the Na-
12 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and
13 the National Weather Service to warn or forecast
14 hazardous weather.

15 (10) Recommendations to reduce or eliminate
16 the cumulative impacts of multiple wind farms.

17 (11) An analysis of whether certain wind tur-
18 bine projects, based on project layout, turbine ori-
19 entation, number of turbines, density of turbines,
20 proximity to radar, or turbine height result in great-
21 er impacts to the missions of Department of De-
22 fense, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
23 ministration, and the National Weather Service, and
24 if so, how can those projects be better cited to re-
25 duce or eliminate NEXRAD impacts.

1 (c) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 12
2 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
3 Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense com-
4 mittees a report on the study conducted pursuant to sub-
5 section (a).

