

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-9
OFFERED BY MS. TLAIB OF MICHIGAN

Strike section 13304 and insert the following:

1 **SEC. 13304. NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR NATIONWIDE RURAL**
2 **AND URBAN LOW-INCOME COMMUNITY**
3 **WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
6 trator” means the Administrator of the Environ-
7 mental Protection Agency.

8 (2) HOUSEHOLD.—The term “household”
9 means any individual or group of individuals who
10 are living together as 1 economic unit.

11 (3) LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLD.—The term
12 “low-income household” means a household—

13 (A) in which 1 or more individuals are re-
14 ceiving—

15 (i) assistance under a State program
16 funded under part A of title IV of the So-
17 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.);

18 (ii) supplemental security income pay-
19 ments under title XVI of the Social Secu-
20 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.);

1 (iii) supplemental nutrition assistance
2 program benefits under the Food and Nu-
3 trition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et
4 seq.);

5 (iv) payments under—

6 (I) section 1315, 1521, 1541, or
7 of title 38, United States Code; or

8 (II) section 306 of the Veterans'
9 and Survivors' Pension Improvement
10 Act of 1978 (38 U.S.C. 1521 note;
11 Public Law 95–588);

12 (v) assistance under the Low Income
13 Home Energy Assistance Program (42
14 U.S.C. 8621); or

15 (vi) assistance under the Women In-
16 fants and Children program (42 U.S.C.
17 1786); or

18 (B) that has an income that as determined
19 by the State in which the household is located
20 that is receiving a grant under paragraph
21 (7)(b), or an eligible wastewater or stormwater
22 system receiving a grant under paragraph
23 (7)(b), does not exceed the greater of—

24 (i) an amount equal to 200 per-cent
25 of the poverty level; and

1 (ii) an amount equal to 80 percent of
2 the area median income.

3 (4) POVERTY LEVEL.—The term “poverty
4 level” means, with respect to a household in a State,
5 the income described in the poverty guidelines issued
6 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services
7 pursuant to section 673 of the Community Services
8 Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902), as applicable to
9 the household.

10 (5) AREA MEDIAN INCOME.—The term “area
11 median income” means the unadjusted median in-
12 come levels by geographic area as determined annu-
13 ally by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Devel-
14 opment.

15 (b) STUDY; REPORT.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
17 after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
18 thereafter, the Administrator shall conduct, and sub-
19 mit to Congress a report describing the results of,
20 a study regarding the prevalence throughout the
21 United States of low-income households that do not
22 have access to—

23 (A) affordable and functional centralized
24 or onsite wastewater services that protect the
25 health of individuals in the households;

1 (B) affordable municipal stormwater serv-
2 ices; or

3 (C) affordable public drinking water serv-
4 ices to meet household needs.

5 (2) DATA COLLECTION.—The Administrator
6 shall collect regularly from community water sys-
7 tems, treatment works for municipal waste, munic-
8 ipal separate storm sewer systems, and such other
9 sources as may be appropriate, for use in the reports
10 under paragraph (1)—

11 (A) data, provided by zip code, concerning
12 arrearages, service disconnections, and other
13 debt collection activities for low-income house-
14 holds, including, at minimum, number of dis-
15 connections for nonpayment, length of dis-
16 connections, amount of debt at time of dis-
17 connection, number of households and amount
18 of debt subject to sale or enforcement of prop-
19 erty liens, number of households enrolled in an
20 assistance program, number of eligible house-
21 holds, benefit levels, and amount of debt reduc-
22 tion for enrolled households, and number of en-
23 rolled households reconnected to water service;

24 (B) revenue collection information from
25 each community water system, treatment works

1 for municipal waste, and municipal separate
2 storm sewer systems, including, at minimum,
3 rate design for residential customers, billing fre-
4 quency, fees and charges included on the bill,
5 and projected rate increases over the next 5
6 years;

7 (C) information regarding customer assist-
8 ance programs, including any rate structures,
9 rebates, discounts, billing methods that average
10 rates over the course of a year, known as
11 “budget billing”, and procedures that ensure
12 that households receive notice and an oppor-
13 tunity to dispute charges before service is dis-
14 connected or interrupted due to nonpayment;
15 and

16 (D) other relevant information as deter-
17 mined by the Administrator.

18 (3) INCLUSIONS.—The report under paragraph

19 (1) shall include—

20 (A) recommendations of the Administrator
21 regarding the best methods to increase access
22 to the services described in paragraph (1);

23 (B) a description of the cost of each meth-
24 od described in subparagraph (A);

1 (C) a description of all consultation with
2 relevant stakeholders carried out in developing
3 the report; and

4 (D) a description of the results of the
5 study with respect to low-income households
6 that live in rental housing and do not receive
7 bills for such services, but pay for the services
8 indirectly through rent payments.

9 (4) AGREEMENTS.—The Administrator may
10 enter into an agreement with another Federal agen-
11 cy to carry out the study under paragraph (1).

12 (5) FUNDS TO WATER, WASTEWATER, AND
13 STORMWATER SYSTEMS.—The Administrator may
14 provide reasonable, one-time grants to owners and
15 operators of community water systems, treatment
16 works for municipal waste, and municipal separate
17 storm sewer systems to modify their billing and data
18 management systems in order to reliably and regu-
19 larly generate the data required in this needs assess-
20 ment.

21 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
22 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
23 \$150,000,000 to remain available until expended.

