

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-**

**54**

**OFFERED BY MR. FEENSTRA OF IOWA**

At the end of subtitle B of title II, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 2\_\_\_ . RADAR OBSTRUCTION RESEARCH, DEVELOP-**  
2 **MENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION PROGRAM.**

3 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of Defense, in  
4 conjunction with the Director of the National Weather  
5 Service, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Admin-  
6 istration, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary  
7 of Energy shall establish a research, development, test,  
8 and evaluation program (in this Act referred to as the  
9 “Program”) to ensure the continued performance of  
10 weather radar detection and prediction capabilities with  
11 physical obstructions in the radar line of sight.

12 (b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In carrying out the Program,  
13 the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Inter-  
14 agency Council for Advancing Meteorological Services,  
15 shall—

16 (1) partner with industry, academia, Federal,  
17 State, and local government entities, and any other  
18 entity that the Secretary considers appropriate;

1           (2) identify and test existing or near-commer-  
2           cial technologies and solutions that mitigate the po-  
3           tential impact of obstructions on a weather radar;

4           (3) research additional solutions that could  
5           mitigate the effects of an obstruction on weather  
6           radar, including—

7                   (A) signal processing algorithms;

8                   (B) short-term forecasting algorithms to  
9                   replace contaminated data; and

10                  (C) the use of dual polarization character-  
11                  istics in mitigating the effects of wind turbines  
12                  on weather radar; and

13           (4) develop commercially viable technical miti-  
14           gation solutions for obstructions to weather radar  
15           capabilities.

16           (c) **PRIORITY.**—In carrying out the requirements de-  
17           scribed in subsection (b), the Secretary of Defense shall  
18           prioritize consideration of—

19                   (1) multifunction phased array radar;

20                   (2) the replacement of contaminated data with  
21                   commercial radar data;

22                   (3) the utilization of data from private-sector-  
23                   associated meteorological towers;

1           (4) providing wind farm boundaries and consoli-  
2           dated wind farm areas to display on local forecasting  
3           equipment;

4           (5) installing and providing access to rain  
5           gauges; and

6           (6) any other technology-based mitigation solu-  
7           tion that the Director of the National Weather Serv-  
8           ice determines could overcome beam blockage or  
9           ghost echoes.

10          (d) **TERMINATION.**—The authority of the Secretary  
11 of Defense to carry out the Program shall terminate on  
12 the earlier of—

13           (1) September 30, 2026; or

14           (2) 1 year after date on which the final rec-  
15           ommendation required by subsection (e)(2) is sub-  
16           mitted by the Secretary.

17          (e) **REPORT; RECOMMENDATION.**—

18           (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after  
19           the date of enactment of this section, and annually  
20           thereafter until the Program terminates pursuant to  
21           subsection (d), the Secretary of Defense shall submit  
22           to Congress a report on the implementation of the  
23           Program, including an evaluation of each tech-  
24           nology-based mitigation solution identified for pri-  
25           ority consideration in subsection (c), and a rec-

1       ommendation regarding additional identification and  
2       testing of new technologies based on such consider-  
3       ation.

4           (2) FINAL RECOMMENDATION.—Not later than  
5       5 years after the date of enactment of this section,  
6       the Secretary of Defense shall provide to Congress  
7       a recommendation on whether additional research,  
8       testing, and development through the Program es-  
9       tablished by subsection (a) is needed, and a deter-  
10      mination of whether a cessation of field research, de-  
11      velopment, testing, and evaluation is appropriate.

12      (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13           (1) BEAM BLOCKAGE.—The term “beam block-  
14      age” means a signal that is partially or fully blocked  
15      due to an obstruction.

16           (2) GHOST ECHO.—The term “ghost echo”  
17      means radar signal reflectivity or velocity return er-  
18      rors in radar data due to the close proximity of an  
19      obstruction.

20           (3) OBSTRUCTION.—The term obstruction in-  
21      cludes—

22           (A) a wind turbine that could limit the ef-  
23      fectiveness of a weather radar system; and

- 1 (B) any building that disrupts or limits the
- 2 effectiveness of a weather radar system.

