AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117–13

OFFERED BY M. ___________

Add at the end of subtitle B of title XXXI the following new section:

SEC. 3117. U–233 DISPOSITION PROGRAM.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, in light of the statement of policy of the United States pursuant to section 1261 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232) regarding long-term strategic competition with China, and China’s pursuit of thorium molten-salt reactors, spent nuclear fuel reprocessing, and fast-neutron reactor technology and associated cooperative research agreements with national laboratories of the United States, the Secretary of Energy should seek to promote the development of nuclear recycling, alternate fuel cycles using U–233, reactor-grade plutonium, and other “transuranic” elements, and molten-salt reactor technology by American industry.

(b) PAUSE OF DISPOSITION PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Energy may not carry out the U–233 Disposition Program during the period beginning on the date of the
enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which
the Secretary submits the report under subsection (c).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
to the congressional defense committees a report that in-
cludes the following:

(1) The costs of constructing or modifying a
suitable category–1 facility for the secure, perma-
nent storage of the U–233 inventory as well as a
pathway for National Asset Material designation.

(2) A description of the scope for a facility that
would enable secure access to the nuclear material
for research and development of thorium fuel cycle
reactors, for both defense and civilian applications,
as well as medical isotope extraction and processing,
including by developing such a facility through pub-
lic-private partnerships.

(3) Whether the Secretary should transfer the
ownership of U–233 from the Office of Environ-
mental Management to the Office of Nuclear En-
ergy.

(4) The ability of the Department of Energy to
transfer the inventory of U–233 that the Secretary
determines is most feasible for immediate or near-
term transfer to the Y-12 National Security Complex for secure interim storage.

(5) The feasibility of the National Nuclear Security Administration providing for the secure storage of the inventory of U-233 within the Y-12 National Security Complex or another suitable location within the nuclear security enterprise (as defined in section 4002 of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2501).