AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
OF H.R. 7
OFFERED BY MR. WITTMAN OF VIRGINIA

At the end of title XVII add the following:

Subtitle D—Facilitation of Development of Offshore Wind Energy Resources

SEC. 17801. SHORT TITLE.
This subtitle may be cited as the “Advancing Offshore Wind Production Act”.

SEC. 17802. OFFSHORE METEOROLOGICAL SITE TESTING AND MONITORING PROJECTS.
(a) Definition of an Offshore Meteorological Site Testing and Monitoring Project.—In this section, the term “offshore meteorological site testing and monitoring project” means a project carried out on or in the waters of the Outer Continental Shelf administered by the Department of the Interior to test or monitor weather (including wind, tidal, current, and solar energy) using towers, buoys, or other temporary ocean infrastructure, that—
(1) causes—
(A) less than 1 acre of surface or seafloor
disruption at the location of each meteorological
tower or other device; and

(B) not more than 5 acres of surface or
seafloor disruption within the proposed area af-
fected by for the project (including hazards to
navigation);

(2) is decommissioned not more than 5 years
after the date of commencement of the project, in-
cluding—

(A) removal of towers, buoys, or other tem-
porary ocean infrastructure from the project
site; and

(B) restoration of the project site to ap-
proximately the original condition of the site;
and

(3) provides meteorological information ob-
tained by the project to the Secretary of the Inte-
rior.

(b) OFFSHORE METEOROLOGICAL PROJECT PERMIT-
TING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Inte-
rior shall by regulation require that any applicant
seeking to conduct an offshore meteorological site
testing and monitoring project on the outer Conti-
nental Shelf (as that term is defined in the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.)) must obtain a permit for the project in accordance with this subsection.

(2) PERMIT TIMELINE AND CONDITIONS.—

(A) DEADLINE FOR APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall decide whether to issue a permit for an offshore meteorological site testing and monitoring project within 30 days after receiving an application for the permit.

(B) PUBLIC COMMENT AND CONSULTATION.—During the period referred to in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

(i) provide an opportunity for submission of comments by the public; and

(ii) consult with the Secretary of Defense, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, and the heads of other Federal, State, and local agencies that would be affected by issuance of the permit.

(C) DENIAL OF PERMIT; OPPORTUNITY TO REMEDY DEFICIENCIES.—If the application is denied, the Secretary shall provide the applicant—
(i) in writing, clear and comprehensive reasons why the application was not approved and detailed information concerning any deficiencies in the application; and

(ii) an opportunity to remedy such deficiencies.

(c) NEPA EXCLUSION.—Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall not apply with respect to an offshore meteorological site testing and monitoring project.

(d) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—The information provided to the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to subsection (a)(3) shall be treated by the Secretary as proprietary information and protected against disclosure.