

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
OF H.R. 1947
OFFERED BY MR. HINOJOSA OF TEXAS**

Page 390, after line 7, insert the following:

1 **SEC. ____ . DEFINITION OF RURAL AREA.**

2 Section 343(a)(13) of the Consolidated Farm and
3 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1993(a)(13)) is amend-
4 ed to read as follows:

5 “(13) RURAL AND RURAL AREA.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to any deter-
7 mination made under subparagraph (B), the
8 terms ‘rural’ and ‘rural area’ mean any area
9 other than—

10 “(i) a city or town that has a popu-
11 lation of greater than 30,000 inhabitants;
12 and

13 “(ii) any urbanized area contiguous
14 and adjacent to a city or town described in
15 clause (i).

16 “(B) DETERMINATION OF AREAS RURAL IN
17 CHARACTER.—

18 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If part of an area
19 described in subparagraph (A)(ii) was eli-

1 gible under the definitions of the terms
2 ‘rural’ and ‘rural area’ in this paragraph
3 (as in effect on the day before the date of
4 the enactment of this paragraph) for a
5 community facility program, a water and
6 waste disposal program, a broadband pro-
7 gram, a rural business development pro-
8 gram authorized by section 306 or 310B
9 and described in section 310B(g) or
10 381E(d)(3), or a rural development loan or
11 grant program, that area shall remain so
12 eligible unless the Secretary, acting
13 through the Under Secretary for Rural De-
14 velopment (referred to in this subpara-
15 graph as the ‘Under Secretary’), deter-
16 mines the area is no longer rural, based on
17 the criteria described in clause (iii).

18 “(ii) OTHER AREAS.—On petition of a
19 unit of local government in an urbanized
20 area described in subparagraph (A)(ii), or
21 on the initiative of the Under Secretary,
22 the Under Secretary may determine that
23 part of an area is rural, based on the cri-
24 teria described in clause (iii).

1 “(iii) CRITERIA.—In making a deter-
2 mination under clause (i), the Under Sec-
3 retary shall consider—

4 “(I) population density;
5 “(II) economic conditions, favor-
6 ing a rural determination for areas
7 facing—

8 “(aa) chronic unemployment
9 in excess of statewide averages;

10 “(bb) sudden loss of employ-
11 ment from natural disaster or the
12 loss of a significant employer in
13 the area; or

14 “(cc) chronic poverty dem-
15 onstrated at the census block or
16 county level compared to state-
17 wide median household income;
18 and

19 “(III) commuting patterns, favor-
20 ing a rural determination for areas
21 that can demonstrate higher propor-
22 tions of the population living and
23 working in the area.”.

