

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
OF H.R. 7
OFFERED BY MRS. NOEM OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

At the end of title XVII add the following:

1 **Subtitle D—Facilitation of Develop-**
2 **ment of Wind Energy Resources**
3 **on Federal Lands**

4 **SEC. 17801. SHORT TITLE.**

5 This subtitle may be cited at the “Utilizing America’s
6 Federal Lands for Wind Energy Act”.

7 **SEC. 17802. ONSHORE METEOROLOGICAL SITE TESTING**
8 **AND MONITORING PROJECT.**

9 (a) DEFINITION OF METEOROLOGICAL SITE TEST-
10 ING AND MONITORING PROJECT.—In this section, the
11 term “meteorological site testing and monitoring project”
12 means a project carried out on land administered by the
13 Bureau of Land Management or the Forest Service to test
14 or monitor weather (including wind and solar energy)
15 using towers or other devices, that—

16 (1) causes—

17 (A) less than 1 acre of soil or vegetation
18 disruption at the location of each meteorological
19 tower or other device; and

1 (B) not more than 5 acres of soil or dis-
2 ruption within the proposed right-of-way for the
3 project;

4 (2) is installed—

5 (A) to the maximum extent practicable,
6 using existing access roads;

7 (B) in a manner that does not require off-
8 road motorized access other than 1 installation
9 activity and 1 decommissioning activity along
10 an identified off-road route approved by the Di-
11 rector of the Bureau of Land Management or
12 Chief of the Forest Service;

13 (C) without construction of new roads
14 other than upgrading of existing minor drain-
15 age crossings for safety purposes; and

16 (D) without the use of digging or drilling
17 equipment vehicles other than rubber-tired vehi-
18 cles with gross weight ratings under 8,500
19 pounds;

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

23 (A) removal of any towers, devices, or
24 other surface infrastructure from the site; and

1 (B) restoration of the site to approximately
2 the condition that existed at the time the
3 project began; and

4 (4) provides meteorological information ob-
5 tained by the permitted project to the Bureau of
6 Land Management and the Forest Service.

7 (b) NEPA EXCLUSION.—Section 102(2)(C) of the
8 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.
9 4332(2)(C)) shall not apply with respect to a meteorolog-
10 ical site testing and monitoring project.

11 (c) PERMIT TIMELINE AND CONDITIONS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Bureau
13 of Land Management or Chief of the Forest Service,
14 as applicable, shall decide whether to issue a permit
15 for a project that is a meteorological site testing and
16 monitoring project within 30 days after receiving an
17 application for the permit.

18 (2) PUBLIC COMMENT AND CONSULTATION.—
19 During the period referred to in paragraph (1), the
20 Director of the Bureau of Land Management or the
21 Chief of the Forest Service, as applicable, shall—

22 (A) provide an opportunity for submission
23 of comments by the public; and

1 (B) consult with the heads of other Fed-
2 eral, State, and local agencies that would be af-
3 fected by the issuance of the permit.

4 (3) DENIAL OF APPLICATION.—If the applica-
5 tion is denied, the Director or Chief, respectively,
6 shall provide the applicant—

7 (A) in writing, clear and comprehensive
8 reasons why the application was not approved
9 and detailed information concerning any defi-
10 ciencies, and

11 (B) an opportunity to remedy any defi-
12 ciencies.

13 (d) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—The informa-
14 tion provided to the Bureau of Land Management and the
15 Forest Service pursuant to subsection (a)(4) shall be
16 treated by such agency as proprietary information and
17 protected against disclosure.

