

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116-

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OFFERED BY MR. BROWN OF MARYLAND

Page 92, after line 7, insert the following:

1 **Subtitle C—Chesapeake Bay Oyster**
2 **Research**

3 **SEC. 218. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

4 It is the sense of Congress that the Chesapeake Bay
5 Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-
6 tration shall be the primary representative of the Adminis-
7 tration in the Chesapeake Bay.

8 **SEC. 219. GRANTS FOR RESEARCHING OYSTERS IN THE**
9 **CHESAPEAKE BAY.**

10 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of the Com-
11 merce, acting through the Administrator of the National
12 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, shall establish
13 a grant program (in this section referred to as the “Pro-
14 gram”) under which the Secretary shall award grants to
15 eligible entities for the purpose of conducting research on
16 the conservation, restoration, or management of oysters
17 in the Chesapeake Bay.

18 (b) **APPLICATION.**—To be eligible to receive a grant
19 under this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the

1 Secretary an application at such time, in such manner,
2 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-
3 quire.

4 (c) ALLOCATION OF GRANT FUNDS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award a
6 grant under the Program to eligible entities that
7 submit an application under subsection (b).

8 (2) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
10 subparagraph (B), the total amount of Federal
11 funding received under the Program by an eligi-
12 ble entity may not exceed 85 percent of the
13 total cost of the research project for which the
14 funding was awarded. For the purposes of this
15 subparagraph, the non-Federal share of project
16 costs may be provided by in-kind contributions
17 and other noncash support.

18 (B) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive
19 all or part of the requirement in subparagraph
20 (A) if the Secretary determines that no reason-
21 able means are available through which an eligi-
22 ble entity applying for a grant under this sec-
23 tion can meet such requirement and the prob-
24 able benefit of such research project outweighs
25 the public interest in such requirement.

1 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following defi-
2 nitions apply:

3 (1) ACADEMIC COMMUNITY.—The term “aca-
4 demic community” means faculty, researchers, pro-
5 fessors, and representatives of State-accredited col-
6 leges and universities.

7 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
8 ty” means a member of the academic community,
9 the seafood industry, a relevant nonprofit organiza-
10 tion, or a relevant State agency, that is proposing or
11 conducting a research project on the conservation,
12 restoration, or management of oysters in the Ches-
13 peake Bay developed through consultation with a
14 member of the academic community, a member of
15 the seafood industry, a relevant nonprofit organiza-
16 tion, or a relevant State agency.

17 (3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
18 “nonprofit organization” means an organization de-
19 scribed in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
20 Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section
21 501(a) of such Code.

22 (4) SEAFOOD INDUSTRY.—The term “seafood
23 industry” means shellfish growers, shellfish har-
24 vesters, commercial fishermen, and recreational fish-
25 ermen.

1 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of the Commerce, acting through the
3 Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmos-
4 pheric Administration.

5 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
6 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$2,000,000
7 for each of the fiscal years 2020 through 2025 to carry
8 out this section.

