4. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE WITTMAN OF VIRGINIA OR HIS DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 10 MINUTES

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AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT

FOR H.R. 4899

OFFERED BY Robert J. Wittman (VA-01)

Page 51, after line 21, insert the following:

1 SEC. ___. ENHANCING GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL IN-
2 FORMATION FOR AMERICA'S ENERGY FU-
3 TURE.

4 Section 11 of the Outer Continental Shelf lands Act
5 (43 U.S.C. 1340) is amended by adding at the end the
6 following:

7 "(i) ENHANCING GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL
8 INFORMATION FOR AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE.—

9 "(1) The Secretary, acting through the Director
10 of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, shall
11 facilitate and support the practical study of geology
12 and geophysics to better understand the oil, gas, and
13 other hydrocarbon potential in the South Atlantic
14 Outer Continental Shelf Planning Area by entering
15 into partnerships to conduct geological and geo-
16 physical activities on the outer Continental Shelf.

17 "(2)(A) No later than 180 days after the date
18 of enactment of the Lowering Gasoline Prices to
19 Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014, the Gov-

1 ernors of the States of Georgia, South Carolina,
2 North Carolina, and Virginia may each nominate for
3 participation in the partnerships—
4 "(i) one institution of higher education lo-
5 cated within the Governor's State; and
6 "(ii) one institution of higher education
7 within the Governor's State that is a histori-
8 cally black college or university, as defined in
9 section 631(a) of the Higher Education Act of
10 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1132(a)).
11 "(B) In making nominations, the Governors
12 shall give preference to those institutions of higher
13 education that demonstrate a vigorous rate of ad-
14 mission of veterans of the Armed Forces of the
15 United States.
16 "(3) The Secretary shall only select as a part-
17 ner a nominee that the Secretary determines dem-
18 onstrates excellence in geophysical sciences cur-
19 riculum, engineering curriculum, or information
20 technology or other technical studies relating to seis-
21 mic research (including data processing).
22 "(4) Notwithstanding subsection (d), nominees
23 selected as partners by the Secretary may conduct
24 geological and geophysical activities under this sec-
25 tion after filing a notice with the Secretary 30-days

1 prior to commencement of the activity without any
2 further authorization by the Secretary except those
3 activities that use solid or liquid explosives shall re-
4 quire a permit. The Secretary may not charge any
5 fee for the provision of data or other information
6 collected under this authority, other than the cost of
7 duplicating any data or information provided. Nomi-
8 nees selected as partners under this section shall
9 provide to the Secretary any data or other informa-
10 tion collected under this subsection within 60 days
11 after completion of an initial analysis of the data or
12 other information collected, if so requested by the
13 Secretary.

14 "(5) Data or other information produced as a
15 result of activities conducted by nominees selected as
16 partners under this subsection shall not be used or
17 shared for commercial purposes by the nominee, may
18 not be produced for proprietary use or sale, and
19 shall be made available by the Secretary to the pub-
20 lic.

21 "(6) The Secretary shall submit to the Com-
22 mittee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-
23 resentatives and the Committee on Energy and Nat-
24 ural Resources of the Senate reports on the data or
25 other information produced under the partnerships

1 under this section. Such reports shall be made no
2 less frequently than every 180 days following the
3 conduct of the first geological and geophysical activi-
4 ties under this section.

5 "(7) In this subsection the term 'geological and
6 geophysical activities' means any oil- or gas-related
7 investigation conducted on the outer Continental
8 Shelf, including geophysical surveys where magnetic,
9 gravity, seismic, or other systems are used to detect
10 or imply the presence of oil or gas.".