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Amendments to H.R. 4715—Clean Estuaries Act

The House will consider H.R. 4715 on Thursday, April 15, 2010, under a structured rule that waives all points of order except for clauses 9 (the earmark rule) and 10 of Rule XXI (PAYGO), and provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The rule makes in order seven amendments analyzed below (each amendment debatable for ten minutes).

The rule waives the requirement that a same day rule receive a two-thirds vote of the House through April 16, 2010 for consideration of legislation relating to extension of unemployment benefits. The rule also makes it in order for such legislation to be considered under suspension of the rules through April 16, 2010.

For the RSC Legislative Bulletin on the underlying bill, see [here](#).

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AMENDMENTS MADE IN ORDER UNDER THE RULE

1. ***Oberstar (D-MN)***. The amendment would make several technical amendments. It also requires the National Estuary Program Comprehensive Conservation and Management plans to increase public education and awareness with respect to:
 - The ecological health of the estuary;
 - The water quality conditions of the estuary; and
 - The ocean, estuarine land, and atmospheric connections and interactions.
2. ***Pingree (D-ME)***. The underlying bill requires the EPA Administrator to conduct an evaluation of the National Estuary Program. This amendment would require the Administrator, in conducting the evaluation, to:

- Assess the effectiveness of the national estuary program at improving water quality, natural resources, and sustainable uses of the estuaries covered by management conferences;
 - Identify best practices for improving water quality, natural resources, and sustainable uses of the estuaries covered by management conferences; and
 - Identify any redundant requirements for reporting by recipients of a grant, and develop and recommend a plan for limiting reporting redundancies.
3. **Kagen (D-WI).** The amendment requires estuary programs to include in their comprehensive conservation and management plan a coordinated monitoring strategy for federal, state, and local governments.
4. **Schauer (D-MI).** The amendment would expand the National Estuary Program so that “Great Lake estuaries” (as defined by the amendment) would now be covered under the National Estuary Program.
5. **Moore (D-WI):** Includes monitoring of both pathways and ecosystems, to track the introduction and establishment of nonnative species, to the list of research programs the EPA Administrator can carry out.
6. **Shea-Porter (D-NH).** Adds to the requirements of a comprehensive conservation and management plan that it include an evaluation of changes in sea level on estuarine water quality, estuarine habitat, and infrastructure located in the estuary.
7. **Kratovil (D-MD).** The amendment requires National Estuary Program management conferences to:
- Ensure equitable inclusion of affected interests;
 - Engage with members of the management conference;
 - Ensure relevant information, including scientific, technical, and cultural information, is accessible to members;
 - Promote accountability and transparency by ensuring members are informed in a timely manner;
 - Identify the roles and responsibilities of members in the implementation of the plan; and
 - Seek resolution of the conflicts or disputes as necessary.