

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE  
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 3846  
OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS**

Add at the end the following:

1 **SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE FOREIGN**  
2 **LANGUAGE AWARD PROGRAM.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

4 (1) Congress established the Foreign Language  
5 Award Program (FLAP) to incentivize employees at  
6 United States ports of entry to utilize their foreign  
7 language skills on the job by providing a cash incen-  
8 tive for the use of the foreign language for at least  
9 ten percent of their duties after passage of com-  
10 petency tests. FLAP incentivizes the use of more  
11 than two dozen languages and has been instrumental  
12 in identifying and utilizing United States Customs  
13 and Border Protection (CBP) officers and Agri-  
14 culture Specialists who are proficient in a foreign  
15 language.

16 (2) In 1993, Congress provided for dedicated  
17 funding for this program by stipulating that certain  
18 fees collected by CBP be used for the payment of  
19 FLAP.

1           (3) Through the FLAP program, foreign trav-  
2           elers are aided by having an officer at a port of  
3           entry who speaks their language, and CBP benefits  
4           by being able to focus its border security efforts in  
5           a more effective manner.

6           (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
7           gress that—

8           (1) FLAP incentivizes CBP officers and Agri-  
9           culture Specialists to attain and maintain com-  
10          petency in a foreign language, thereby improving the  
11          efficiency of operations for the functioning of the  
12          agency’s security mission, making the United States  
13          a more welcoming place when foreign travelers find  
14          officers can communicate in their language, and  
15          helping to expedite traveler processing to reduce  
16          wait times; and

17          (2) because FLAP is instrumental for CBP’s  
18          security mission and in facilitating trade and travel,  
19          United States Customs and Border Protection  
20          should maintain funding for the program at the fis-  
21          cal year 2013 levels and it be fully funded by custom  
22          user fees, as required by law.

