

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE NA-
TURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO THE COMMITTEE
PRINT FOR H.R. 3291
OFFERED BY MS. BARRAGÁN OF CALIFORNIA**

At the end, add the following:

1 **TITLE IV—OTHER MATTERS**

2 **SEC. 401. SMALL URBAN AND RURAL WATER SYSTEM CON-**
3 **SOLIDATION REPORT.**

4 (a) REPORT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
6 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comp-
7 troller General shall submit to the Committee on
8 Energy and Commerce of the House of Representa-
9 tives and the Committee on Environment and Public
10 Works of the Senate a report on issues relating to
11 the potential for consolidation of distressed small
12 water systems.

13 (2) INCLUSIONS.—The report submitted under
14 paragraph (1) shall include—

15 (A) information on—

16 (i) the amount of debt of covered
17 small water systems;

1 (ii) whether the budgets of covered
2 small water systems are balanced;

3 (iii) the degree to which covered small
4 water systems defer infrastructure im-
5 provements;

6 (iv) the degree to which covered small
7 water systems are not in compliance with
8 applicable Federal and State water quality
9 standards;

10 (v) how rates charged by covered
11 small water systems for service relate to
12 the costs for maintenance of, and improve-
13 ments to, such systems; and

14 (vi) how the management, financial,
15 and technical capacity of covered small
16 water systems affects the ability of such
17 systems to provide service at affordable
18 rates;

19 (B) an evaluation of—

20 (i) whether covered small water sys-
21 tem infrastructure is failing, resulting in a
22 temporary or permanent loss of essential
23 functions or services; and

1 (ii) how to prevent covered small
2 water systems from becoming distressed
3 small water systems;

4 (C) policy recommendations for how Con-
5 gress may support the consolidation of dis-
6 tressed small water systems; and

7 (D) best practices and guidelines the Ad-
8 ministrator of the Environmental Protection
9 Agency may use to assist State and local gov-
10 ernments with facilitating the consolidation of
11 distressed small water systems.

12 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) CONSOLIDATION.—The term “consolida-
14 tion” means, with respect to a public water system,
15 any of the actions described in subparagraphs (A)
16 through (D) of section 1414(h)(1) of the Safe
17 Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g–3(h)(1)).

18 (2) COVERED SMALL WATER SYSTEM.—The
19 term “covered small water system” means a public
20 water system that serves—

21 (A) fewer than 50,000 individuals; and

22 (B) a disadvantaged community or an en-
23 vironmental justice community.

24 (3) DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY.—The term
25 “disadvantaged community” has the meaning given

1 such term in section 1452(d)(3) of the Safe Drink-
2 ing Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-12(d)(3)).

3 (4) DISTRESSED SMALL WATER SYSTEM.—The
4 term “distressed small water system” means a cov-
5 ered small water system—

6 (A) that is unable to carry out necessary
7 maintenance of, and improvements to, such sys-
8 tem in order to—

9 (i) comply with applicable Federal and
10 State water quality standards; or

11 (ii) provide reliable and affordable
12 service to customers while complying with
13 such water quality standards; and

14 (B) with respect to which consolidation
15 may be necessary to address the issues de-
16 scribed in subparagraph (A).

17 (5) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY.—
18 The term “environmental justice community” has
19 the meaning given such term in section 1452(u)(11)
20 of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

21 (6) PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM.—The term “public
22 water system” has the meaning given such term in
23 section 1401 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
24 U.S.C. 300f).

