

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR THE
117TH CONGRESS**

**MEETING
OF THE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE
CLIMATE CRISIS**

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

MEETING HELD
MARCH 19, 2021

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SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

KATHY CASTOR, Florida, *Chair*

SUZANNE BONAMICI, Oregon

JULIA BROWNLEY, California

JARED HUFFMAN, California

A. DONALD McEACHIN, Virginia

MIKE LEVIN, California

SEAN CASTEN, Illinois

JOE NEGUSE, Colorado

VERONICA ESCOBAR, Texas

GARRET GRAVES, Louisiana,

Ranking Member

GARY PALMER, Alabama

BUDDY CARTER, Georgia

CAROL MILLER, West Virginia

KELLY ARMSTRONG, North Dakota

DAN CRENSHAW, Texas

ANTHONY GONZALEZ, Ohio

ANA UNRUH COHEN, *Majority Staff Director*

MARTY HALL, *Minority Staff Director*

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ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2021

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 9:54 a.m., via Webex, Hon. Kathy Castor [chairwoman of the committee] presiding.

Present: Representatives Castor, Bonamici, Brownley, Huffman, Levin, Casten, Neguse, Escobar, Graves, Palmer, Carter, Miller, Armstrong, Crenshaw, and Gonzalez.

Ms. CASTOR. The committee will come to order.

Without objection, the chair is authorized to declare a recess of the committee at any time.

As a reminder, members participating in a hearing remotely should be visible on camera throughout the meeting. And as with in person meetings, members are responsible for controlling their own microphones. Members can be muted by staff only to avoid inadvertent background noise.

In addition, statements, documents, or motions must be submitted to the electronic repository immediately upon introduction to SCCC.repository@mail.house.gov for circulation to committee members.

Finally, members or witnesses experiencing technical problems should inform committee staff immediately.

I now recognize myself for 5 minutes to give an opening statement.

Well, good morning, everyone. I am thrilled to welcome you to the organizational meeting of the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, our first in the 117th Congress. I would like to express my gratitude to Speaker Pelosi for her deep commitment to solving the climate crisis and for allowing the Select Committee to continue building on our work for the American people.

Last year, our Select Committee Democratic members released a comprehensive set of recommendations for the Congress in a staff report entitled, "Solving the Climate Crisis: The Congressional Action Plan for Clean Energy Economy and a Healthy, Resilient, and Just America," where we highlighted bills, including bipartisan bills, to the standing committees.

This plan would put the United States on a path to net zero by 2050 or earlier. It would create much needed jobs in clean energy, infrastructure, conservation, manufacturing, construction, and other important industries. It would protect millions of families and small businesses from costly climate-fueled risks and harms,

and it would advance environmental justice for Black, Brown, Native, and low income Americans.

Our climate crisis action plan has been described as the most detailed and well thought out plan for addressing climate change that has ever been part of U.S. politics. Now, the work ahead of us is clear: We must waste no time in turning our recommendations into policy. Families across America have given us this strong mandate to act on climate, and younger generations are watching. They know their futures hang in the balance.

Our sole item of business today, before we consider the committee rules, will be to talk about our jurisdiction, and then we will take a moment to introduce our Democratic members, and then I will give Ranking Member Graves an opportunity to give an opening statement and introduce our Republican members.

So first on our jurisdiction, it is simple. It is pretty straightforward. According to House Resolution 8, our Select Committee will have investigative jurisdiction over policies, strategies, and innovations to achieve substantial and permanent reductions in pollution and other activities that contribute to the climate crisis. It is my hope that our Select Committee will continue to be a forum to advance important solutions for the American people, to find common ground, to follow the science, and to approach our differences constructively.

Now I would like to introduce our fabulous Democratic members, and at the end, I am going to give our new member, Rep. Escobar, an opportunity to introduce herself to the committee.

So, Democratic members include Suzanne Bonamici from Oregon. She serves on the Science Committee, where she is leading the fight for ocean climate action, and she serves on the Committee on Education and Labor.

Rep. Julia Brownley from California, she serves on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, where she is pushing for cleaner public transit systems and expanding our use of zero-emission vehicles. And Rep. Brownley also serves on the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Rep. Jared Huffman of California, he is the chair of Water, Ocean, and Wildlife Subcommittee in the House Natural Resources Committee, where he is a strong champion for public lands and waters. He serves, as well, on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Rep. Don McEachin of Virginia serves on the Energy and Commerce Committee, where he has led the charge on securing environmental justice for all. He also serves on the Natural Resources Committee.

Congressman Mike Levin of California serves on the Natural Resources Committee, where he works to advance safeguards against drought, heat waves, and rising sea levels. Rep. Levin also is a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Rep. Sean Casten of Illinois serves on the Financial Services Committee, where he is working to reduce climate risk in the financial sector. He also serves on the Science and Technology Committee.

And Rep. Joe Neguse of Colorado is the chair of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands in the

Natural Resources Committee, where he advances protections for his communities from climate fueled wildfires and much more. Rep. Neguse also serves on the Judiciary Committee.

And we are so pleased to welcome our newest Democratic member, Congresswoman Veronica Escobar of Texas. She is a member of the Armed Services Committee, where she is working to ensure that our military stands ready to face the climate crisis, and she has long championed economic opportunities in clean energy. She also serves on the Judiciary Committee.

Rep. Escobar, as the newest Democratic member of the Select Committee, welcome. We are thrilled to have you, along with our two new Republican members. Please take a minute to introduce yourself to the committee, and the floor is yours.

[The statement of Ms. Castor follows:]

Opening Statement of Chair Kathy Castor
Organizational Meeting for the 117th Congress
Select Committee on the Climate Crisis
March 19, 2021

As Prepared for Delivery

Thank you all for joining us. I'm thrilled to welcome you to the first meeting of the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis in the 117th Congress. Before we begin, I'd like to express my gratitude to Speaker Pelosi for her deep commitment to solving the climate crisis—and for allowing our Select Committee to continue building on our work for the American people.

Last year, our Select Committee's Democratic Members released a comprehensive set of recommendations for Congressional action in the staff report titled *'Solving The Climate Crisis: The Congressional Action Plan for a Clean Energy Economy and a Healthy, Resilient, and Just America'*. This plan would put the United States on a path to net zero by 2050 or earlier. It would create much-needed jobs in clean energy, infrastructure, conservation, manufacturing, construction, and a number of other industries. It would protect millions of families and small businesses from climate-fueled risks and harms. And it would advance environmental justice for Black, brown, Native, and low-income Americans.

Our Climate Crisis Action Plan has been described as “the most detailed climate plan in United States political history.” Now, the work ahead of us is clear: we must waste no time turning our recommendations into policy. Families across America have given us a strong mandate to act on climate. And entire generations are watching, knowing their futures hang in the balance.

Before we consider our committee rules, I'll quickly go over our jurisdiction and take a moment to introduce our Democratic members. I will then give our Ranking Member an opportunity to give an opening statement and introduce our Republican members.

According to House Resolution 8, our Select Committee will have investigative jurisdiction over policies, strategies, and innovations to achieve substantial and permanent reductions in pollution and other activities that contribute to the climate crisis. It is my hope that our Select Committee will continue to be a forum to advance important solutions for the American people, to find common ground, to follow the science, and to approach our differences constructively.

With that, I would like to introduce our Democratic members:

Suzanne Bonamici from Oregon. She serves on the Science Committee, where she is leading the fight for ocean climate action, and on the Committee on Education and Labor.

Julia Brownley from California. She serves on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, where she is pushing for cleaner public transit systems and expanding our use of zero-emission vehicles, and she also serves on the Veterans Affairs Committee.

Jared Huffman from California. He is the Chair of the Water, Ocean and Wildlife subcommittee in the House Natural Resources Committee, where he is a strong champion for our public lands and water. He also serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Donald McEachin from Virginia. He serves on the Energy and Commerce Committee, where he has led the charge on securing environmental justice. He also serves on the Natural Resources Committee.

Mike Levin from California. He serves on the Natural Resources Committee, where he works to advance safeguards against droughts, heat waves, and rising sea levels. He's also a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Sean Casten from Illinois. He serves on the Financial Services Committee, where he is working to reduce climate risk in the financial sector. He also serves on the Science and Technology Committee.

Joe Neguse from Colorado. He is the Chair of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands in the Natural Resources Committee, where he can advance protections for his communities from climate-fueled wildfires. He also serves on the Judiciary Committee.

And our newest member, **Veronica Escobar** from Texas. She is a member of the Armed Services Committee, where she is working to ensure our military stands ready to face the climate crisis, and she has long championed the economic opportunities in clean energy. She also serves on the Judiciary Committee.

Rep. Escobar, as the newest Democratic member of the Select Committee, let me give you a minute to introduce yourself.

[Rep. Escobar speaks]

Now I'd like to give Ranking Member Graves the opportunity to provide some opening remarks and introduce the rest of our members.

Ms. ESCOBAR. Thank you so much, Madam Chair, and apologies for being a few minutes late at the top of the meeting.

You know, the only thing that I would add is it really is an honor to serve on this committee, and I truly do hope that we are able to work together to address some of the greatest challenges that our communities face, our globe faces, our military installations.

And as the member from the border, from El Paso, Texas, I can tell you, so many of the families that I talk to who are arriving at our front door from Central America are fleeing the ravages of the climate crisis. You know, they don't talk about it in that way, but they talk about food insecurity, they talk about being unable to farm on their land, they talk about the impact of hurricanes and natural disasters.

So I think over the long term, the work that we do will not just help create a greater planet, but it will create stability for people in their home countries. So really looking forward to the work ahead with everyone.

I yield back.

Ms. CASTOR. Thank you, Rep. Escobar, and welcome again.

Now I would like to give Ranking Member Graves the opportunity to provide some opening remarks and introduce the Republican side of the aisle, including our two new Republican members.

Ranking Member Graves.

Mr. GRAVES. Thanks.

Ms. CASTOR. You are recognized.

Mr. GRAVES. Hey, Madam Chair. Thank you.

Welcome, everyone, to the committee. Really excited to get back to work as quickly as possible, and I hope that we are able to actually get together and meet in person very soon so we can begin addressing some of the very important issues that are in front of us.

The climate issue has always been very important, but I think some of the recent actions by this administration, executive orders and others, have had a significant impact on our energy industry. And whether that is renewable energy or conventional fuels, it has had a significant impact on our energy industry, on energy prices

in a very short period of time, which makes this issue even more urgent.

Madam Chair, as you know, we have discussed in the past that all of us are committed to an American based clean energy future, and it is important that as we move forward, we come up with informed policies that are based upon science, based upon evidence, based upon data, and perhaps building upon some of the successes that the United States has been able to achieve in being the largest emissions reducing country in the world.

As a matter of fact, President Obama had established the Clean Power Plan, which was intended to reduce emissions by 32 percent from a 2005 baseline, and we were supposed to hit that target, according to the Clean Power Plan, by 2030. And even during the Trump administration, which, of course, perception perhaps was very different, we hit that 2030 target in 2019. And, Madam Chair, we did that without the mandates, without restrictions, without coming in and trying to pick energy technology winners and losers. We did it by letting the market do what it does and, again, just blew away some of these targets.

Madam Chair, you and I—and I hope I am not disclosing a private conversation, but we had a great conversation yesterday talking about areas where we can work together and cooperate, areas like resiliency and adaptation. We both represent important coastal communities in this Nation. Areas like ensuring that our research and development strategy complies or is based upon America's resources and some of the opportunities before us to continue reducing emissions and ensure affordable, exportable energy, clean energy solutions. Talking about energy efficiency and conservation and building upon some of the successes.

And so I am very hopeful that we can move forward, again, in an evidence based direction, in a bipartisan direction, that truly yields the best American based clean energy future that we can have.

Madam Chair, we have a number of returning rock stars on our side as well. I am really looking forward to working with a number of your members that I am very close with.

We have our Republican policy chairman, Gary Palmer from Alabama, who is back.

We have our pharmacist, Buddy Carter from Georgia, who likes to remind folks that he represents the entire coast of Georgia and that Georgia has—they are in the top 50 in terms of timber-producing states in the United States, and they have the third largest St. Patrick's Day parade in Georgia. Sorry.

We have Congressman Kelly Armstrong from North Dakota that has an extensive energy background, particularly on the natural gas side, and has just been a wealth of knowledge for the committee.

We have Carol Miller from West Virginia, who, once again, coming from a coal state, a mining state, is really the face of this kind of energy future and how we do it in a way that is very sensitive to the needs of our communities across the United States, and, again, we ensure an energy policy based upon our resources here in America.

Madam Chair, we also have two new members that I am very excited to welcome to the committee. We have Congressman Anthony Gonzalez from Ohio. And Congressman Gonzalez has an extensive background, not just in professional sports, but also in business and technology. And, Congressman—and by the way, Ohio is, once again, one of those states that has been fueling America's energy revolution.

And last but not least, we have Congressman Dan Crenshaw from Texas, that, once again, not just brings the—Texas, which, you know, one of our biggest energy producing states in America—not just brings that perspective to the table, but also, very importantly, Madam Chair, brings a national security perspective to the table, which I think is really important as we think about our energy future.

So with that, I assume it is okay to yield to them for quick introductions?

Ms. CASTOR. Please do.

Mr. GRAVES. Congressman Gonzalez.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Sure. I will be very quick.

So, great to be on this Select Committee. Great to work with everybody on both sides, Republican and Democrat.

As Garret said, I am from northeast Ohio, and, you know, while admittedly the climate situation is not one that is top of mind for most of my constituents, reliable and affordable energy certainly is, and so is having an economy where everybody has an opportunity to succeed no matter what your skill level is.

And so the way that I have come into the climate debate is by focusing a lot on Lake Erie, which is right in my backyard, where we have had rising water levels. We have had increased flooding. From when I was a child, we had almost no flooding, whereas now I get flooded at least three or four times a year, and everybody sort of notices that.

And so the perspective I will bring to this debate is one that focuses on understanding the tradeoffs between our economic security and our climate goals, and also being a big proponent of finding and facilitating the R&D discoveries that are going to help power us through this.

So, again, thank you all for having me. It is great to be with everybody, and I will yield back.

Mr. GRAVES. Congressman Crenshaw.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Thank you. Thanks for having me here. It is an honor to be a part of this, such an important issue. It is an important issue to get right. The solutions are what I am after. And last Congress, I was able to pass two bipartisan bills, LEADING Act and the New Energy Frontier, both associated with carbon capture and carbon utilization.

Looking—I am going to be hitting on a few themes. One, always talking about the tradeoffs and the costs and the benefits. Over and over and over again, I see too often that there is a preferred solution that—and then the tendency when you have a preferred solution is to exaggerate the benefits of that solution and diminish the cost associated with it.

This should be our focus, what works and what doesn't. What has worked in the past, both in the United States and in other

countries, and what has not. We talk about energy—or we talk about environmental justice all the time. I am going to talk to you about energy justice and what that means to people, people trying to get out of poverty, people who can't afford higher electric bills, people who want reliable energy when it gets cold or hot. This has to be part of the discussion, and in many cases, it hasn't been. So really happy to be a part of this and be solutions oriented for things that will work to solve this problem.

Thank you for having me.

Mr. GRAVES. I yield back.

Ms. CASTOR. All right. Well, welcome, Rep. Escobar, Rep. Gonzalez, Rep. Crenshaw. We are thrilled that you all have joined the Climate Committee.

We are going to have some great debates, and we do intend to be solutions oriented. And I hope, if you haven't had an opportunity to review our climate action plan that was released last year, I encourage you to do it. There are a lot of good bipartisan solutions in there, and we need to build bipartisan support to press ahead.

So now we will move to our first order of business, the consideration and adoption of the Select Committee's rules for the 117th Congress. I ask for unanimous consent that the proposed rules be considered read and open for amendment at any point.

[The information follows:]

**In the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis
117th Congress, 1st Session**

March 19, 2021

A Resolution

Offered by Ms. Castor

To adopt rules of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis pursuant to clause 2 of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Resolved, That the Rules of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis for the 117th Congress shall be:

RULE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) The provisions of section 4(d) of H. Res. 8 (117th Congress) governing the proceedings of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis (hereinafter referred to as the "Committee") are hereby incorporated by reference and nothing herein shall be construed as superseding any provision of that section. The Rules of the House of Representatives shall apply to the Committee to the extent that they are not inconsistent with that title.

(b) The rules of the Committee shall be made publicly available in electronic form and published in the Congressional Record not later than 30 days after the Committee adopts its rules.

RULE 2. MEETINGS.

(a) In General.—

(1) The regular meeting date of the Committee shall be the first Tuesday of every month when the House is in session in accordance with clause 2(b) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives. If the House is not in session on the first Tuesday of a month, the regular meeting date shall be the third Tuesday of that month. A regular meeting of the Committee may be dispensed with if, in the judgment of the Chair of the Committee, there is no need for the meeting.

- (2) Additional meetings may be called by the Chair of the Committee as the Chair considers necessary, in accordance with clause 2(g)(3) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.
- (b) Meetings of the Committee shall be called to order and presided over by the Chair or, in the Chair's absence, by a member designated by the Chair to carry out such duties.
- (c) Notification.—
- (1) Pursuant to clause 2(g)(3) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Chair shall make a public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of a Committee meeting (other than a hearing), which may not commence earlier than the third calendar day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays except when the House is in session on such a day) on which members have notice thereof.
- (2) The agenda for each Committee meeting, setting out all items of business to be considered, shall be established by the Chair and provided to each member of the Committee at least 36 hours (exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session on such days) in advance of the commencement of such meeting.
- (d) The requirements of paragraph (c) may be waived by a majority vote of those present, a quorum being present, or by the Chair with the concurrence of the Ranking Member. If the requirements of paragraph (c) are waived, the Chair shall notify the members of the Committee at the earliest possible time.

RULE 3. HEARINGS.

- (a) Announcement of Hearings.—
- (1) Pursuant to clause 2(g)(3) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Chair shall announce the date, time, place, and subject matter of any hearing of the Committee, which may not commence earlier than one week after such notice.
- (2) A hearing may commence sooner than specified in (a)(1) if the Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Member, determines there is good cause or the Committee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present. The Chair shall announce the hearing at the earliest possible time.
- (b) Written Witness Statement; Oral Testimony.—
- (1) Filing of Statement.—To the greatest extent practicable, each witness who is to appear before the Committee shall file with the clerk of the Committee a written statement of his or her proposed testimony at least two business days in advance of his or her appearance. The clerk of the Committee shall distribute this testimony to the Members of the Committee as soon as is practicable and at least one business day before the hearing. The requirements of this subparagraph may be waived or modified by the Chair after consultation with the Ranking Member.
- (2) Each witness shall limit his or her oral presentation of testimony to no more than five minutes.
- (3) Truth in Testimony.—Each witness appearing in a nongovernmental capacity shall include with the written statement of his or her proposed testimony a curriculum vitae; a disclosure of any Federal grants or contracts, or contracts, or grants, or payments originating with a foreign government, received during the past 36 months by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness and related to the subject matter of the hearing; and a disclosure of whether the witness is a fiduciary (including, but not limited to, a director, officer, advisor, or resident agent) of any organization or entity that has an interest in the subject matter of a hearing. The disclosure shall include (A) the amount and country of origin of any payment or contract related to the subject matter of the hearing originating with a foreign government; and (B) the amount and country of origin of any payment or contract related to the subject matter of the hearing originating with a foreign government.
- (4) Availability of Information.—Statements filed under this paragraph shall be made publicly available in electronic form not later than one day after the witness appears.
- (c) Notification of Subject Matter.—As soon as practicable but no later than 36 hours before the commencement of a hearing, the Chair shall make available to the public and all Members of the Committee a concise summary of the subject matter under consideration at the hearing, any relevant reports from departments or agencies on such matters, and a list of witnesses, including minority witnesses.
- (d) Minority Witnesses.—When any hearing is conducted by the Committee on any measure or matter, the minority party members on the Committee shall be entitled, upon request to the Chair by a majority of those members, to call at least one

witness, as selected by the minority members, to testify with respect to that measure or matter along with witnesses selected by the Chair.

(e) Opening Statements.—

(1) Chair and Ranking Member.—At any hearing of the Committee, the Chair and Ranking Member shall each control five minutes for opening statements. The Chair and Ranking Member may recognize other members within their respective five minutes.

(2) Other Members.—The Chair may allow other members of the Committee to deliver oral opening statements, as appropriate, with the concurrence of the Ranking Member. Such statements shall not exceed five minutes in length and are to be equally distributed between majority and minority members to the extent practicable given the party makeup of the members present. Members not recognized by the Chair for oral opening statements may submit written opening statements for the record.

(f) Questioning of Witnesses.—The Chair shall initiate the right to question witnesses before the Committee, followed by the Ranking Member and all other members thereafter.

(1) Order of Member Recognition.—The right to question the witnesses before the Committee shall alternate between majority and minority members. A member of the Committee may question a witness only when recognized by the Chair for that purpose. The Chair shall recognize in order of appearance members who were not present when the meeting was called to order after all members who were present when the meeting was called to order have been recognized in the order of seniority on the Committee.

(2) Procedures for Questioning of Witnesses by Members.—Each member shall be limited to 5 minutes in the questioning of witnesses and shall limit his or her remarks to the subject matter of the hearing. After consultation with the Ranking Member, the Chair may recognize members who have already had an opportunity to question the witness for a second period of 5 minutes once each member of the Committee present has been recognized once for that purpose.

(3) Extended Questioning of Witnesses by Members.—Following the questioning of witnesses described in (f)(2) above, the Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Member or the Committee by motion, may permit a specified number of members to question one or more witnesses for a specified period of time not to exceed 60 minutes in the aggregate, equally divided between and controlled by the Chair and the Ranking Member.

(4) Questions for the Record.—Each member may submit to the Chair additional questions for the record to be answered by the witnesses who have appeared. Each member shall provide a copy of the questions in an electronic format to the Committee no later than 10 business days following a hearing. The Chair shall transmit all questions received from members of the Committee to the appropriate witnesses and include the transmittal letter and the responses from the witnesses in the hearing record. After consultation with the Ranking Member, the Chair is authorized to close the hearing record no earlier than 15 business days from the date the questions were transmitted to the appropriate witnesses.

(g) Hearings of the Committee shall be called to order and presided over by the Chair or, in the Chair's absence, by a member designated by the Chair to carry out such duties.

(h) Oaths.—The Chair of the Committee, or a member designated by the Chair, may administer oaths to any witness before the Committee. The Chair or his or her designee may administer the following oath to all witnesses prior to receiving testimony: "Do you solemnly swear or affirm, under penalty of law, that the testimony you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?"

(i) Claims of Privilege.—Claims of common-law privilege made by witnesses in hearings, or by interviewees in investigations or inquiries, are applicable only at the discretion of the Chair, subject to appeal to the Committee.

RULE 4. OPEN PROCEEDINGS.

(a) Meetings for the transaction of business and hearings of the Committee shall be open to the public, including radio, television, and still photography coverage, unless closed in accordance with clause 2(g) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(b) The audio and video coverage of Committee proceeding permitted under clause 4 of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives shall apply to the Committee.

RULE 5. REPORTS.

(a) Approval of Official Committee Reports.—Any report completed pursuant to section 4(d) of H. Res. 8 (117th Congress) that purports to express the views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations of the Committee must be approved by a majority vote of the Committee at a meeting at which a quorum is present, in accordance with Committee Rule 7(a)(3). The total number of votes cast for and against, and the names of those voting for and against, shall be included in the Committee report on the matter.

(b) Notice of Committee Reports.—Any report described in (a) shall not be considered in the Committee unless the proposed report has been available to the members of the Committee for at least three business days before consideration of such report in the Committee.

(c) Additional Views.—If, at the time of approval of a report, a member of the Committee gives notice of intent to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views for inclusion in the report, all members of the Committee shall be entitled to no less than two business days after such notice to file such views following clause 2(l) of rule XI of the Rules of the House.

(d) Availability of Publications.—Pursuant to clause 2(e)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Committee shall make its publications available in electronic form to the maximum extent feasible. Pursuant to section 4(d) of H. Res. 8 (117th Congress), the Committee shall make its publications available to the general public in widely accessible formats not later than 30 calendar days following the respective dates for completion.

RULE 6. COMMITTEE RECORDS.

(a) Availability.—Documents reflecting the proceedings of the Committee shall be made publicly available in electronic form on the Committee's website and in the Committee office for inspection by the public, as provided in clause 2(e) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, within 48 hours of such recorded vote after each meeting has adjourned, including a record showing those present at each meeting; and a record of the vote on any question on which a recorded vote is demanded, including a description of the motion, order, or other proposition, the name of each member voting for and each member voting against such motion, order, or proposition, and the names of those members of the Committee present but not voting.

(b) Archived Records.—The records of the Committee deposited at the National Archives shall be made available for public use in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House. The Chair shall notify the Ranking Member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of such rule, to withhold a record otherwise available. Upon written request of any member of the Committee, the Chair shall present the matter to the Committee for a determination, which shall be subject to the same requirements for conduct of Committee business under Committee Rule 2.

RULE 7. QUORUMS AND RECORDED VOTES; POSTPONEMENT OF VOTES.

(a) Establishment of a Quorum.—

(1) For the purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence, no fewer than two members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

(2) A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for those actions for which the Rules of the House of Representatives require a majority quorum.

(3) A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for issuing an official Committee report pursuant to Rule 5 of the Committee rules and section 4(d) of H. Res. 8 (117th Congress).

(4) For the purposes of taking any other action, one-third of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

(b) Recorded Votes.—A recorded vote may be demanded by one-fifth of the members present.

(c) Postponement of Votes.—Pursuant to clause 2(h)(4) of the Rules of the House, the Chair, after consultation with the Ranking Member, may postpone further proceedings when a recorded vote is ordered on the question of approving any measure or matter or adopting an amendment and may resume proceedings on a postponed vote at any time after reasonable notice to Members by the Clerk or other designee of the Chair. When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

RULE 8. COMMITTEE STAFF.

(a) Professional and other staff of the Committee are subject to the provisions of clause 9 of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(b) Majority Staff.—The Chair shall appoint and determine the remuneration of, and may remove, the employees of the Committee not assigned to the minority. The staff of the Committee not assigned to the minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Chair, who shall establish and assign the duties and responsibilities of such staff members and delegate such authority as he or she determines appropriate.

(c) Minority Staff.—The Ranking Member shall appoint and determine the remuneration of, and may remove, the staff assigned to the minority within the budget approved for such purposes. The staff assigned to the minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Ranking Member, who may delegate any authority he or she determines appropriate.

(d) The Chair and Ranking Member have the right to secure one or more detailees to assist with the work of the Committee.

RULE 9. BUDGET.

(a) The Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Member, shall prepare a budget providing amounts for staff, committee travel, field hearings, investigation, and other expenses of the Committee. Funds authorized for the Committee as provided in clause 6 of Rule X are for expenses incurred in the activities of the Committee.

(b) Consistent with clause 9 of Rule X, the Chair shall designate an amount equal to 1/3 of the amount provided to the Committee in the primary expense resolution adopted by the House of Representatives to be under the direction of the Ranking Member for the compensation of the minority staff, travel expenses of minority members and staff, and minority office expenses. All expenses of minority members and staff shall be paid for out of the amount so set aside.

RULE 10. TRAVEL.

(a) The Chair may authorize travel for any member and any staff member of the Committee in connection with activities or subject matters under the general jurisdiction of the Committee. Travel to be reimbursed from funds set aside for the Committee for any member of staff member shall be paid only upon the prior authorization of the Chair. Before such authorization is granted, there shall be submitted to the Chair in writing the following:

- (1) The purpose of the travel.
- (2) The dates during which the travel is to occur.
- (3) The names of the states or countries to be visited and the length of time to be spent in each.
- (4) An agenda of anticipated activities.
- (5) The names of members and staff of the Committee for whom the authorization is sought.

(b) Members and staff of the Committee shall make a written report to the Chair on any travel they have conducted under this subsection, including a description of their itinerary, expenses, and activities, and of pertinent information gained as a result of such travel.

(c) Members and staff of the Committee performing authorized travel on official business shall be governed by applicable laws, resolutions, and regulations of the House and of the Committee on House Administration.

RULE 11. WEBSITE.

The Chair shall maintain an official Committee website for the purpose of carrying out the official responsibilities of the Committee, including communicating information about the Committee's activities. The Ranking Member may maintain a minority website. To the maximum extent feasible, the Committee shall make its publications available in electronic form on the official Committee website maintained by the Chair.

The proposed rules were circulated electronically to members on Tuesday morning and again yesterday. The proposed rules include technical and conforming changes to the rules the Select Committee adopted last Congress.

So I wonder if we have any proposed amendments?

Without objection, the further reading—okay. Let's see, no amendments? Great.

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Chair.

Ms. CASTOR. Rep. Graves, you are recognized.

Mr. GRAVES. Thank you.

Madam Chair, as you and I discussed this and I told you that we were okay with the rules package, I have one request. In the truth in testimony section, which is (b)(3), I understand that this is one of the greatest revisions in the rules, and it is my understanding that this was done in order to comply with revisions in House rules related to truth in testimony, and obviously those things need to be aligned.

One of our members brought up an issue this morning, and I just want to ask would it be okay if our staffs can get together to work to reconcile this. The intention of these revisions are to ensure that we have full disclosure of any foreign agents or foreign interests that are testifying or operating before the committee, which certainly makes sense.

As we know, some countries operate through surrogates, and we have seen that some companies have—excuse me, some countries—use companies or not-for-profits and others to convey their message and effectively operate in a subversive manner.

And I just—in reading this, it is clearly the intent to capture those sorts of folks that may not be fully transparent in their background or their motives. And I just wanted to ask if it would be okay if our staffs could take a fresh look at this provision and just ensure that it would capture anyone that is operating on behalf of a foreign government but perhaps doing it through a surrogate like a company or something along those lines.

Ms. CASTOR. Yeah, I appreciate that. And I know Rep. Palmer had raised a question on that account.

So, first of all, thank you for reading the rules and thinking them through. The changes relating to that section reflect the changes to the House rules, so we like to keep in sync with the House rules so to avoid confusion. But I get your point. So we will—our staff can discuss and talk about this, and if we need to go back to the Rules Committee and have some clarification, we can do that. We will also give the bipartisan staff the ability to make any technical changes and bring them back to us if we need to do that.

Mr. GRAVES. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair. If my WiFi wasn't out and Netflix didn't work, I am not sure I would have read them. But thank you.

Ms. CASTOR. Okay. Any other questions or comments or proposed amendments?

Seeing none, the question is now on the adoption of the rules.

All those in favor, say aye.

Those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it, the rules are adopted.

And without objection, the motion to reconsider is laid upon the table.

I now ask for unanimous consent that the staff be allowed to make any technical and conforming changes to the rules subject to approval of the minority.

Hearing no objections, it is so ordered.

And guess what? We have no further business.

I would like to thank everyone for attending today's meeting. I look forward to a productive year ahead. We are going to be developing a number of upcoming hearings, if you all have—we welcome any input from all members of the committee, so please don't hesitate to pass those along.

Again, welcome to our new members. Thank you all for helping us go through this organizational meeting in a very smooth way.

And, without objection, this meeting is adjourned. Thanks, everybody.

Mr. CASTEN. Madam Chair, before we adjourn, can I make one comment?

Ms. CASTOR. Rep. Casten, you are recognized.

Mr. CASTEN. So, look, this is a comment mostly to my Democratic members. Our illustrious chair, as some of you may not be aware, is also the chair of the Congressional Soccer Caucus. And with the addition of Reps. Gonzalez and Crenshaw, I believe that we now have, maybe with the exception of Rep. LaHood, all of the Republican players on the congressional soccer team last year.

We have the coach on our side and myself, and so to my Democratic colleagues, we need to beef up the squad, and I would encourage you to join the Congressional Soccer Caucus and play once we get to a COVID point again, because there is far too much leaning to one side of the aisle in this—

Mr. HUFFMAN. You don't want to see me playing soccer, Sean, but if we ever have a tennis match or if anyone wants to play volleyball, we will talk.

Mr. CASTEN. I think it was myself and Rick Larsen and a lot of much younger staff on the Democratic side last year, so our Republicans are doing a better job at getting the old creaky knees out on the field, and I think we have an obligation to match their exuberance.

Mr. GRAVES. Well, you know what, Congressman Casten, I left two ligaments on the field, so you will see those, I can tell you.

Ms. CASTOR. Yes, that is right.

Ms. BONAMICI. Well, and as the representative of—

Mr. CASTEN. That is right. I take it back, Garret. I wanted to man up on you.

Ms. BONAMICI. I represent Nike, and they typically sponsor, and so I am getting pretty good at the coin toss, but I don't think you will see me doing much else on the field. May the best team win.

Ms. CASTOR. Excellent. Okay. Thanks, everybody.

Without objection, the meeting is adjourned. Have a great weekend.

[Whereupon, at 10:17 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]