

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2838**

**OFFERED BY MR. LANDRY OF LOUISIANA**

At the end of title VI add the following:

1 **SEC. \_\_\_\_ . STANDBY VESSELS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle VIII of title 46, United  
3 States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the  
4 following new chapter:

5 **“CHAPTER 807—STANDBY VESSELS**

“Sec.  
“80701. Standby vessels.

6 **“§ 80701. Standby vessels**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The owner or operator of a  
8 manned facility, installation, unit, or vessel shall locate a  
9 standby vessel—

10 “(1) not more than 3 nautical miles from such  
11 manned facility, installation, unit, or vessel while it  
12 is performing drilling, plugging, abandoning, or  
13 workover operations; and

14 “(2) not more than 12 nautical miles from such  
15 manned facility, installation, unit, or vessel while it  
16 is performing operations other than drilling, plug-  
17 ging, abandoning, or workover operations.

1       “(b) IMPROVED STANDBY VESSEL RESPONSE  
2 TIME.—

3           “(1) IN GENERAL.—A Coast Guard District  
4 Commander may reduce the distances prescribed in  
5 subsection (a) for the area of command of the Dis-  
6 trict Commander if the District Commander deter-  
7 mines the reduction is necessary to address delays in  
8 standby vessel response times caused by inclement  
9 weather, high seas, or other conditions that prolong  
10 standby vessel response time or lessen the time sur-  
11 vivors of an accident can remain in the water.

12           “(2) APPROXIMATION OF NORMAL RESPONSE  
13 TIME.—Any reduction under paragraph (1) shall be  
14 made to a distance that, in weather conditions ne-  
15 cessitating the reduction, ensures that a standby  
16 vessel’s response time approximates that of a stand-  
17 by vessel covering the distance prescribed in sub-  
18 section (a) during normal weather conditions.

19           “(3) PREVENTION OF HYPOTHERMIA.—Any re-  
20 duction under paragraph (1) made due to water  
21 temperature or other factors that reduce the time  
22 survivors of an accident can remain in the water  
23 shall be made to a distance at which a standby ves-  
24 sel can be assumed to reach the survivor before the  
25 onset of hypothermia.

1           “(4) NOTICE TO OWNERS AND OPERATORS.—  
2       Before exercising the authority in paragraph (1), a  
3       District Commander shall provide 72 hours notice to  
4       the owners and operators of standby vessels and  
5       owners and operators of manned facilities, installa-  
6       tions, units, and vessels operating in the District  
7       Commander’s area of command.

8           “(c) MULTIPLE PLATFORMS AND USES.—Nothing in  
9       this section shall be construed to prohibit—

10           “(1) use of one standby vessel for more than  
11       one manned facility, installation, unit, or vessel; or

12           “(2) use of a standby vessel for other pur-  
13       poses.”.

14           (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters  
15       at the beginning of such subtitle is amended by adding  
16       at the end the following:

          “807. Standby vessels .....80701.”.

17           (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
18       this section shall take effect one year after the date of  
19       enactment of this Act.

20           (d) REGULATIONS.—

21           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the depart-  
22       ment in which the Coast Guard is operating may  
23       promulgate regulations to implement the amend-  
24       ments made by this section.

1           (2) EXISTING REGULATIONS.—Until such time  
2 as the Secretary promulgates regulations to imple-  
3 ment the amendments made by this section, the re-  
4 quirements of subpart E of part 143 of title 33,  
5 Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date  
6 of enactment of this Act, including the requirements  
7 that must be met by a standby vessel, shall apply to  
8 standby vessels required under the amendments.

