

AMENDMENT TO H.R. _____
OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF LOUISIANA

At the end of title II, add the following:

1 **SEC. _____. GAO STUDY ON ADMINISTRATION OF ENVIRON-**
2 **MENTAL BANKS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
5 of the United States shall conduct a study and submit to
6 the appropriate committees of Congress a report that ana-
7 lyzes the administration of section 309 of the Coastal Wet-
8 lands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (16
9 U.S.C. 3957) to establish an environmental bank (as de-
10 fined in such section), such that the Secretary—

11 (1) achieves the objectives of the report of the
12 Chief of Engineers for ecosystem restoration in the
13 Louisiana Coastal Area or the objectives of the com-
14 prehensive coastal protection master plan entitled
15 “Louisiana Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sus-
16 tainable Coast” prepared by the State of Louisiana
17 and accepted by the Louisiana Coastal Protection
18 and Restoration Authority (including any subsequent
19 amendments or revisions);

1 (2) promotes ridge restoration, barrier island
2 restoration, marsh creation, non-structural risk man-
3 agement, or any other projects authorized, funded,
4 or undertaken, or proposed to be authorized, funded,
5 or undertaken, pursuant to such comprehensive
6 coastal protection master plan;

7 (3) allows for proactive investment in projects
8 by a public or private entity seeking to generate
9 credits to satisfy responsibilities associated with en-
10 vironmental compliance;

11 (4) allows for leveraging additional State, Par-
12 ish or Federal funds; and

13 (5) recommends methods for awarding addi-
14 tional credit for high-priority projects listed in the
15 report and plan described in paragraph (1).

16 (b) CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS.—In car-
17 rying out subsection (a), the Comptroller of the Unites
18 States shall consult with the Secretary, the Louisiana
19 Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task
20 Force, the Governor of Louisiana (or an appointee), and
21 other stakeholders, to the extent practicable.

