

**AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. SCHAKOWSKY OF
ILLINOIS TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE NA-
TURE OF A SUBSTITUTE FOR H.R. 8**

Page 194, strike line 1 and all that follows through
page 196, line 5, and insert the following:

1 **“SEC. 319. OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCACY AND COMPLI-**
2 **ANCE ASSISTANCE.**

3 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within
4 the Commission the Office of Consumer Advocacy and
5 Compliance Assistance.

6 “(b) DIRECTOR.—The Office shall be headed by a Di-
7 rector to be appointed by the President by and with the
8 advice and consent of the Senate from among individuals
9 who are licensed attorneys admitted to the Bar of any
10 State or of the District of Columbia and who have experi-
11 ence in public utility proceedings.

12 “(c) DUTIES.—The Office may—

13 “(1) intervene, appear, and participate, in ac-
14 cordance with this section, in administrative, regu-
15 latory, or judicial proceedings on behalf of energy
16 customers with respect to any matter concerning
17 rates, charges, prices, tariffs, or service of public
18 utilities and natural-gas companies under the juris-

1 diction of the Commission by representing the inter-
2 ests of energy customers—

3 “(A) on matters before the Commission
4 concerning rates or service of public utilities
5 and natural-gas companies under the jurisdic-
6 tion of the Commission;

7 “(B) as amicus curiae, in the review in the
8 courts of the United States of rulings by the
9 Commission in such matters; or

10 “(C) as amicus curiae, in hearings and
11 proceedings in other Federal regulatory agen-
12 cies and commissions related to such matters;

13 “(2) monitor and review energy customer com-
14 plaints and grievances on matters concerning rates
15 or service of public utilities and natural-gas compa-
16 nies under the jurisdiction of the Commission;

17 “(3) investigate independently, or within the
18 context of formal proceedings, the services provided
19 by, the rates charged by, and the valuation of the
20 properties of, public utilities and natural-gas compa-
21 nies under the jurisdiction of the Commission;

22 “(4) develop means, such as public dissemina-
23 tion of information, consultative services, and tech-
24 nical assistance, to ensure, to the extent practicable,
25 that the interests of energy customers are ade-

1 quately represented in the course of any hearing or
2 proceeding described in paragraph (1);

3 “(5) collect data concerning rates or service of
4 public utilities and natural-gas companies under the
5 jurisdiction of the Commission;

6 “(6) prepare and issue reports and rec-
7 ommendations; and

8 “(7) take other actions as the Office determines
9 necessary to ensure just and reasonable rates for en-
10 ergy customers.

11 “(d) COMPENSATION AND POWERS.—The Director
12 shall be compensated at Level IV of the Executive Sched-
13 ule. The Director may—

14 “(1) employ not more than 125 full-time profes-
15 sional employees at appropriate levels in the GS
16 Scale and such additional support personnel as re-
17 quired; and

18 “(2) procure temporary and intermittent serv-
19 ices as needed.

20 “(e) INFORMATION FROM OTHER FEDERAL AGEN-
21 CIES.—The Director may request, from any department,
22 agency, or instrumentality of the United States such infor-
23 mation as the Director determines necessary to carry out
24 the Director’s functions under this section. Upon such re-
25 quest, the head of the department, agency, or instrumen-

1 tality concerned shall, to the extent practicable and au-
2 thorized by law, provide such information to the Office.

3 “(f) REPORTS AND GUIDANCE.—The Director shall,
4 as the Director determines appropriate, issue reports and
5 guidance to the Commission and to entities subject to reg-
6 ulation by the Commission, regarding market practices,
7 proposing improvements in Commission monitoring of
8 market practices, and addressing potential improvements
9 to both industry and Commission practices.

10 “(g) OUTREACH.—The Director shall promote im-
11 proved compliance with Commission rules and orders
12 through outreach, publications, and, where appropriate,
13 direct communication with entities regulated by the Com-
14 mission.”.

