

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2177

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage the timely development of a more cost effective United States commercial space transportation industry, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 14, 2001

Mr. CALVERT (for himself, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. BACA, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SKEEN, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. REYES, and Mrs. CAPPES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage the timely development of a more cost effective United States commercial space transportation industry, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Invest in Space Now Act of 2001”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings.

Sec. 3. Purposes.

Sec. 4. Definitions.

Sec. 5. Credit for purchase of space transportation vehicle provider stock.

Sec. 6. United States commercial space transportation vehicle authorization.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress hereby finds that:

3 (1) The United States commercial space trans-
4 portation industry is an essential part of the na-
5 tional economy.

6 (2) Opportunities for United States commercial
7 providers are growing as international markets ex-
8 pand.

9 (3) The development of the United States com-
10 mercial space transportation industry is consistent
11 with the national security needs and foreign policy
12 interests of the United States.

13 (4) United States trading partners have been
14 able to lower their commercial space transportation
15 prices aggressively either through direct cash pay-
16 ments for commercially targeted product develop-
17 ment or with indirect benefits derived from non-
18 market economy status.

19 (5) Because United States incentives for space
20 transportation development have historically focused
21 on civil and military rather than commercial use,
22 United States space transportation costs have re-

1 mained comparatively high, and United States space
2 transportation technology has not been commercially
3 focused.

4 (6) As a result, the United States share of the
5 world commercial market for space transportation
6 has decreased from nearly 100 percent 20 years ago
7 to approximately 47 percent in 1998.

8 (7) In order to avoid undue reliance on foreign
9 space transportation services, the United States
10 must strive to have sufficient domestic capacity as
11 well as the highest quality and the lowest cost per
12 service provided.

13 (8) A successful high quality, lower cost United
14 States commercial space transportation industry
15 should also lead to substantial United States tax-
16 payer savings through collateral lower United States
17 Government costs for its space access requirements.

18 (9) Opening the commercial opportunities of
19 space to the American aerospace industry must be a
20 high priority of the United States Government as we
21 begin the 21st century.

22 (10) Opening space and maintaining United
23 States leadership in the world market does not re-
24 quire massive Government intrusion, but enough
25 Government support on an incremental and timely

1 basis to enable the more cost effective United States
2 private sector to build lower cost space transpor-
3 tation vehicles.

4 (11) Private sector companies across the United
5 States are already attempting to develop a variety of
6 lower cost space transportation vehicles, but lack of
7 sufficient private financing, particularly in the early
8 stages of development, has proven to be a major ob-
9 stacle, an obstacle our trading partners have re-
10 moved by providing direct access to government
11 funding.

12 (12) Given the strengths and creativity of pri-
13 vate industry in the United States, a more effective
14 alternative to the approach of our trading partners
15 is for the United States Government to provide lim-
16 ited incentives industry wide to assist qualifying
17 United States private sector companies obtain other-
18 wise unavailable private equity financing for the crit-
19 ical development stages of a project, while at the
20 same time keeping Government involvement at a
21 minimum.

22 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

23 The purposes of this Act are—

24 (1) to ensure availability of otherwise unavail-
25 able private sector equity financing for United

1 States private sector development of commercial
2 space transportation vehicles which will have trans-
3 portation costs significantly below current levels; and

4 (2) as a result—

5 (A) to avoid undue reliance on foreign
6 space transportation services;

7 (B) to reduce substantially United States
8 Government space transportation expenditures;

9 (C) to increase the international competi-
10 tiveness of the United States space industry;

11 (D) to encourage the growth of space-re-
12 lated commerce in the United States and inter-
13 nationally; and

14 (E) to open the space frontier to the
15 American people.

16 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

17 In this Act:

18 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
19 the Secretary of Transportation.

20 (2) SPACE LAUNCH SITE.—The term “space
21 launch site” means a location from which a launch
22 or landing takes place and includes all facilities lo-
23 cated on, or components of, a launch or landing site,
24 whether real or personal property, which are nec-
25 essary to conduct a launch, whether on land, sea,

1 in the Earth’s atmosphere, or beyond the Earth’s
2 atmosphere.

3 (3) SPACE TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE.—The
4 term “space transportation vehicle” includes all
5 types of vehicles, whether now in existence, devel-
6 oped in the future, or currently under design, devel-
7 opment, construction, reconstruction, or recondi-
8 tioning, which are constructed in the United States
9 by a United States commercial provider and owned
10 by the commercial provider, for the purpose of oper-
11 ating in, or transporting a payload to, from, or with-
12 in, outer space, or in suborbital trajectory.

13 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means any
14 State in the United States, the District of Columbia,
15 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Is-
16 lands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth
17 of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other
18 commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United
19 States.

20 (5) UNITED STATES COMMERCIAL PROVIDER.—
21 The term “United States commercial provider”
22 means a commercial provider organized under the
23 laws of the United States or of a State as a corpora-
24 tion or a Limited Liability Company (LLC).

1 (6) UNITED STATES COMMERCIAL SPACE
2 TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE PROVIDER.—The term
3 “United States commercial space transportation ve-
4 hicle provider” means a United States commercial
5 provider engaged in designing, developing, and pro-
6 ducing commercial space transportation vehicles.

7 (7) UNITED STATES COMMERCIAL SPACE
8 TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE INDUSTRY.—The term
9 “United States commercial space transportation ve-
10 hicle industry” means the collection of United States
11 commercial space transportation vehicle providers.

12 (8) SPACE TRANSPORTATION COSTS SIGNIFI-
13 CANTLY BELOW CURRENT LEVELS.—The term
14 “space transportation costs significantly below cur-
15 rent levels” means at the time of application, for
16 that market segment for which, or in which, the
17 space transportation vehicle is designed, developed,
18 produced, maintained, or operated, the cost of pro-
19 ducing, maintaining, and operating the vehicle is 50
20 percent of the then space transportation costs in
21 that market segment as estimated by the Secretary.
22 If no market exists for the transportation proposed
23 at the time of application, the 50 percent require-
24 ment of the preceding sentence shall be treated as

1 being met if the vehicle has a reasonable possibility
 2 of creating the market proposed.

3 **SEC. 5. CREDIT FOR PURCHASE OF SPACE TRANSPOR-**
 4 **TATION VEHICLE PROVIDER STOCK.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part IV of subchapter A of chap-
 6 ter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to
 7 credits against tax) is amended by adding at the end the
 8 following new subpart:

9 **“Subpart H—Space Transportation Credit**

10 **“SEC. 54. CREDIT FOR PURCHASE OF SPACE TRANSPOR-**
 11 **TATION VEHICLE PROVIDER STOCK.**

12 “(a) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be allowed as a
 14 credit against the tax imposed by this chapter for
 15 the taxable year an amount equal to the applicable
 16 percentage of the aggregate amount paid by the tax-
 17 payer during the taxable year for the purchase of
 18 qualified space transportation vehicle provider stock.

19 “(2) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes
 20 of paragraph (1), the applicable percentage is the
 21 percentage determined in accordance with the fol-
 22 lowing table:

“For taxable years beginning in calendar year—	The applicable percentage is—
2002, 2003, and 2004	50
2005	40
2006	35
2007	30

2008 and 2009	20
2010 and thereafter	0.

1 “(b) MAXIMUM CREDIT.—

2 “(1) LIMITATION FOR EACH PROVIDER.—

3 “(A) LARGE CAPITALIZATION PRO-
 4 VIDERS.—The credit allowed under this section
 5 with respect to the stock of each large capital-
 6 ization space transportation vehicle provider
 7 purchased during a calendar year shall not
 8 exceed—

9 “(i) \$50,000,000 for 2002,

10 “(ii) \$100,000,000 for 2003,

11 “(iii) \$125,000,000 for 2004,

12 “(iv) \$175,000,000 for 2005,

13 “(v) \$200,000,000 for 2006,

14 “(vi) \$50,000,000 for 2007, and

15 “(vii) \$0 for 2008 and 2009.

16 “(B) SMALL CAPITALIZATION PRO-
 17 VIDERS.—The credit allowed under this section
 18 with respect to the stock of each small capital-
 19 ization space transportation vehicle provider
 20 purchased during a calendar year shall not
 21 exceed—

22 “(i) \$35,000,000 for 2002,

23 “(ii) \$40,000,000 for 2003,

24 “(iii) \$45,000,000 for 2004,

1 “(iv) \$50,000,000 for each of 2005
2 and 2006,
3 “(v) \$40,000,000 for 2007, and
4 “(vi) \$35,000,000 for each of 2008
5 and 2009.

6 “(2) AGGREGATE LIMIT.—The aggregate credit
7 allowed under this section with respect to the stock
8 of all space transportation vehicle providers pur-
9 chased during a calendar year shall not exceed—

10 “(A) \$395,000,000 for 2002,
11 “(B) \$580,000,000 for 2003,
12 “(C) \$690,000,000 for 2004,
13 “(D) \$875,000,000 for 2005,
14 “(E) \$950,000,000 for 2006,
15 “(F) \$430,000,000 for 2007,
16 “(G) \$245,000,000 for 2008, and
17 “(H) \$245,000,000 for 2009.

18 “(c) QUALIFIED SPACE TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE
19 PROVIDER STOCK.—For purposes of this section—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified space
21 transportation vehicle provider stock’ means any
22 common stock in a C corporation or any membership
23 unit in a State-registered limited liability company
24 (LLC) if—

1 “(A) as of the date of issuance, such cor-
2 poration is a qualified space transportation ve-
3 hicle provider,

4 “(B) such stock is acquired by the tax-
5 payer at its original issue (directly or through
6 an underwriter) in exchange for money or other
7 property (not including stock), and

8 “(C) the proceeds of such issue are used
9 by such issuer during the 36-month period be-
10 ginning on the date of issuance in substantial
11 compliance with the issuer’s projected usage
12 submitted to the Secretary of Transportation
13 under section 6 of the Invest in Space Now Act
14 of 2001 with its application for authorization.

15 “(2) QUALIFIED SPACE TRANSPORTATION VEHI-
16 CLE PROVIDER.—The term ‘qualified space transpor-
17 tation vehicle provider’ means any United States
18 commercial space transportation vehicle provider (as
19 defined in section 4 of the Invest in Space Now Act
20 of 2001) for which an authorization is in effect
21 under section 6 of such Act.

22 “(3) CAPITALIZATION STATUS OF QUALIFIED
23 PROVIDERS.—For purposes of applying the limits
24 under subsection (b)—

1 “(A) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary shall,
2 using the guidelines developed under subpara-
3 graph (B), designate each qualified space trans-
4 portation vehicle provider as a large capitaliza-
5 tion space transportation vehicle provider or a
6 small capitalization space transportation vehicle
7 provider.

8 “(B) GUIDELINES.—The Secretary of
9 Transportation shall, not later than 6 months
10 after the date of the enactment of the Invest in
11 Space Now Act of 2001, publish guidelines
12 under which qualified space transportation vehi-
13 cle providers are classified into large capitaliza-
14 tion providers and small capitalization pro-
15 viders. The guidelines shall be based on factors
16 particular to the space transportation industry,
17 including—

18 “(i) the capital requirements nec-
19 essary to support the type of provider the
20 taxpayer is or is trying to become,

21 “(ii) the payload size of space trans-
22 portation vehicles developed or used by the
23 taxpayer,

24 “(iii) the markets in which the tax-
25 payer is participating, and

1 “(iv) whether human spaceflight is in-
2 cluded.

3 “(d) RECAPTURE OF CREDIT.—If—

4 “(1) the taxpayer fails to hold qualified space
5 transportation vehicle provider stock for the 3-year
6 period beginning on the date such stock was pur-
7 chased by the taxpayer, or

8 “(2) during such 3-year period, the issuer of
9 such stock ceases to meet the requirements of sec-
10 tion 6 of the Invest in Space Now Act of 2001,

11 then notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle,
12 the tax imposed by this chapter on the taxpayer for the
13 taxable year beginning in the calendar year in which such
14 cessation occurred shall be increased by the amount of
15 credit allowed under subsection (a) to the taxpayer with
16 respect to such stock.

17 “(e) SPECIAL RULES.—For purposes of this
18 section—

19 “(1) CERTAIN PURCHASES BY CORPORATION OF
20 ITS OWN STOCK.—Rules similar to the rules of sec-
21 tion 1202(c)(3) shall apply.

22 “(2) RELATED PERSONS.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
24 subparagraph (B), for purposes of subsection

1 (b) the taxpayer and any person related to the
2 taxpayer shall be treated as one person.

3 “(B) EXCEPTION.—A taxpayer may elect
4 to treat not more than one other person who is
5 related to such taxpayer as unrelated for pur-
6 poses of this section. A person treated as unre-
7 lated to the taxpayer under the previous sen-
8 tence shall not be the same capitalization status
9 (determined under subsection (c)(3) as the tax-
10 payer.

11 “(C) RELATED PERSONS.—For purposes
12 of this paragraph, a person is a related person
13 to another person if—

14 “(i) the relationship between such per-
15 sons would result in a disallowance of
16 losses under section 267 or 707(b), or

17 “(ii) such persons are members of the
18 same controlled group of corporations (as
19 defined in section 1563(a), except that
20 ‘more than 50 percent’ shall be substituted
21 for ‘at least 80 percent’ each place it ap-
22 pears therein).

23 “(f) BASIS ADJUSTMENTS.—For purposes of this
24 subtitle, if a credit is allowed under this section for the
25 purchase of any stock—

1 “(1) the increase in the basis of such stock
2 which would (but for this subsection) result from
3 such purchase shall be reduced by the amount of the
4 credit so allowed, and

5 “(2) the basis of such stock shall be increased
6 by the amount of the increase under subsection (d).

7 “(g) APPLICATION WITH OTHER CREDITS.—The
8 credit allowed under subsection (a) for any taxable year
9 shall not exceed the excess of—

10 “(1) the sum of the regular tax liability (as de-
11 fined in section 26(b)) plus the tax imposed by sec-
12 tion 55, over

13 “(2) the sum of the credits allowable under this
14 part (other than subpart C thereof, relating to re-
15 fundable credits).”

16 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (a) of
17 section 1016 of such Code is amended by striking “and”
18 at the end of paragraph (26), by striking the period at
19 the end of paragraph (27) and inserting “; and”, and by
20 adding at the end the following new paragraph:

21 “(28) to the extent provided in section 54(f), in
22 the case of amounts with respect to which a credit
23 has been allowed under section 54 or a recapture
24 imposed under section 54(d).”.

1 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of subparts
2 for part IV is amended by adding at the end the following
3 new item:

“Subpart H. Space transportation credit.”.

4 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
5 this section shall apply to amounts paid after December
6 31, 2000.

7 **SEC. 6. UNITED STATES COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPOR-**
8 **TATION VEHICLE AUTHORIZATION.**

9 (a) UNITED STATES COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANS-
10 PORTATION VEHICLE INDUSTRY AUTHORIZATION PRO-
11 GRAM.—

12 (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—There
13 shall be a United States Commercial Space Trans-
14 portation Vehicle Industry Authorization Program to
15 provide authorization for tax credit qualification
16 under section 54 of the Internal Revenue Code of
17 1986 to multiple United States commercial space
18 transportation vehicle providers developing vehicles
19 with space transportation costs significantly below
20 current levels.

21 (2) ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM.—The pro-
22 gram shall be carried out by the Secretary of Trans-
23 portation under a streamlined application process
24 pursuant to the terms of this section and any regu-
25 lations that may be promulgated hereunder, in con-

1 sultation with other United States Government offi-
2 cials, and private sector representatives, as nec-
3 essary, to ensure fair, effective, and timely program
4 administration and streamlined authorization.

5 (3) SCOPE OF PROGRAM.—

6 (A) TEMPORARY GOVERNMENT SUP-
7 PORT.—The United States Commercial Space
8 Transportation Vehicle Industry Authorization
9 Program is intended to provide eligibility for
10 tax credits under section 54 of the Internal
11 Revenue Code of 1986 to investors to support
12 financing of qualified commercial space trans-
13 portation vehicle development ventures during
14 their startup phases.

15 (B) EXCLUSION OF SPACE LAUNCH
16 SITES.—The program does not provide author-
17 ization pertaining to the construction, recon-
18 struction, or reconditioning of space launch
19 sites.

20 (C) EXCLUSION OF NONRELATED ACTIVI-
21 TIES.—The program does not provide author-
22 ization for any corporation unless its business
23 plan provides that the main core mission of the
24 corporation is the construction, reconstruction,
25 reconditioning, sale, or distribution of any prod-

1 uct which is integral to the design, develop-
2 ment, construction, reconstruction, or recondi-
3 tioning of a space transportation vehicle as de-
4 scribed in subsection (b).

5 (4) NONDISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATE-
6 RIALS.—Materials that are submitted by a United
7 States commercial space transportation vehicle pro-
8 vider to the Secretary in connection with an applica-
9 tion submitted under the United States Commercial
10 Space Transportation Vehicle Authorization Pro-
11 gram and deemed by the commercial provider to be
12 confidential, and that contain trade secrets or pro-
13 prietary commercial, financial, or technical informa-
14 tion of a kind not customarily disclosed to the pub-
15 lic, shall not be disclosed by the Secretary to persons
16 other than Government officers or employees not-
17 withstanding any other provision of law.

18 (5) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall con-
19 sult to the extent deemed necessary for effective im-
20 plementation of this Act with appropriate Federal
21 agencies and congressional and space transportation
22 industry representatives.

23 (6) PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary
24 shall manage the authorization program consistent
25 with the purposes of this Act.

1 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF VEHICLE PROVIDERS.—

2 (1) AUTHORIZATION BASED ON REASONABLE
3 POSSIBILITY OF SUCCESS.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall au-
5 thorize vehicle providers who demonstrate by
6 the submission of technical and financial infor-
7 mation that they have a reasonable possibility
8 of developing, operating, and maintaining a
9 space transportation vehicle or vehicles with
10 space transportation costs significantly below
11 current levels.

12 (B) RESPONSE BY SECRETARY.— Author-
13 ization by the Secretary is deemed granted un-
14 less within 120 days of application submission
15 the Secretary determines that the provider has
16 no reasonable possibility of significantly low-
17 ering space transportation costs.

18 (2) POSSIBLE COMMERCIAL VIABILITY AND
19 CAPITAL REQUIREMENT TO QUALIFY STOCK FOR
20 CREDIT.—To demonstrate possible commercial via-
21 bility the United States commercial space transpor-
22 tation vehicle provider must raise \$10,000,000 of eq-
23 uity investment during the year of application in
24 order to qualify its stock investors for credit under
25 this Act. Equity raised in order to meet commercial

1 viability tests is eligible for credit once authorization
2 has been completed. The United States commercial
3 space transportation vehicle provider may qualify ad-
4 ditional stock for investor credit up to the maximum,
5 as provided, in section 54(b) of the Internal Revenue
6 Code of 1986, as added by section 5 of this Act.

7 (3) ANNUAL VERIFICATION OF SUBSTANTIAL
8 COMPLIANCE.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—Once authorized, a ve-
10 hicle provider must submit to the Secretary
11 each year a certified audit opinion letter
12 verifying its use of funds in substantial compli-
13 ance with its application.

14 (B) CONSEQUENCE OF FAILURES.—

15 (i) Failure to submit a certified audit
16 opinion letter verifying substantial compli-
17 ance with its application will result in de-
18 authorization of the vehicle provider.

19 (ii) Failure to use funds received after
20 authorization for the development of a
21 space transportation vehicle or vehicles
22 with the goal to reduce space transpor-
23 tation costs significantly below current lev-
24 els will result in deauthorization. Failure

1 to achieve success will not result in de-
2 authorization.

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