

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1150

Designating the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) as
a national security interest and asset.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas (for herself, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KOSMAS, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. REYES, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. WATSON, Mr. CARTER, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. OLSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology

RESOLUTION

Designating the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) as a national security interest and asset.

Whereas the United States has invested in human flight program since May 5, 1961, a program that has been a source for the United States leadership role in space exploration and advancement in scientific research; and is a national security interest and asset for the Nation.

Whereas the Constellation program is a human space flight program that includes: the Ares I launch vehicle, capable of launching to low-Earth orbit; the Ares V heavy-lift launch vehicle, to send astronauts and equipment to the Moon; the Orion capsule, intended to carry astronauts to

low-Earth orbit and beyond; and the Altair lunar lander and lunar surface systems astronauts will need to explore the lunar surface.

Whereas the President's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget provided \$18,700,000,000 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); the Budget funds a program of space-based research to advance our understanding of climate change and its effects, as well as human and robotic space exploration; and the budget supports the use of the Space Shuttle to complete assembly of the International Space Station.

Whereas the 2010 NASA budget funded a program of space-based research that supports the Administration's commitment to deploy a global climate change research and monitoring system.

Whereas 2010 NASA budget was to fund the safe flight of the Space Shuttle through the vehicle's retirement at the end of 2010. An additional flight will be conducted if it can be completed safely before the end of 2010.

Whereas the President's Fiscal Year 2011 Budget proposes to eliminate the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s Space Shuttle and Constellation program and allocate \$6,000,000,000 over 5 years for the purpose of developing commercial space flight.

Whereas the Congress recognizes the policy outlined in section 501(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Authorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16761(a)), that the United States shall maintain an uninterrupted capability for human space flight and operations in low-earth orbit, and beyond, as an essential element of national security

and the ability to ensure continued United States participation and leadership in the exploration of space.

Whereas eliminating the Constellation upon retirement of the Space Shuttle will create a national security risk to the United States and will diminish the Nation's efforts to advance scientific research in space.

Whereas the United States will for the first time since its space program began, be without a human space flight program.

Whereas transferring funds from the Constellation program to the development of commercial space programs to carry human and crew into space is taking a chance on an unknown quantity and is an unnecessary and unreasonable risk this country must not take.

Whereas the retirement of the Space Shuttle this year will leave the United States vulnerable and depending on Russia to put United States astronauts in orbit without the Constellation program; in May of last year when it became clear the United States had no one else to turn to, Russia raised its prices from \$48,000,000 to \$51,000,000 per launch for each astronaut.

Whereas the Constellation program is not just about going to the moon, as the United States has a commitment to the International Space Station (ISS), and with the Space Shuttle being retired this September, the Constellation is the only system under development that will give NASA the future capability to launch and retrieve crews to and from the ISS.

Whereas decreasing the use of the International Space Station would impact the ability to sustain its systems and physical infrastructure.

Whereas the Constellation program should be funded to continue use of the International Space Station to support the agency and other Federal, commercial, and academic research and technology testing needs.

Whereas partnerships between universities and NASA centers should be established to provide research opportunities for conduct of research in the United States International Space Station National Laboratories for the next generation of scientists in order to ensure effective utilization of the International Space Station research capabilities.

Whereas NASA conducts aeronautics research to address aviation safety, air traffic control, noise and, emissions reductions and fuel efficiency.

Whereas NASA's contribution to our knowledge of air and water supports improved decisionmaking for natural resource management and emergency response, thus enabling us to better respond to future homeland security threats.

Whereas knowledge of Earth's water cycle is a critical first step in protecting our water supply; water flows over the Earth's surface in oceans, lakes, and streams, and is particularly vulnerable to attack.

Whereas NASA sensors provide a wealth of information about the water cycle; and contributes to improving our ability to monitor water resources and water quality from space; we must also protect the quality and safety of the air we breathe; airborne contaminants can pose danger to human health; and chemical, nuclear, radiological, and biological attacks are plausible threats against which we

can better protect the United States through NASA's research: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 representatives that—

3 (1) NASA is a national security asset and inter-
4 est for the United States;

5 (2) elimination of the Constellation program
6 will present Homeland Security implications for
7 cyberspace, critical infrastructure, and the intel-
8 ligence community of the United States;

9 (3) elimination of the Constellation program
10 will compromise the effectiveness of the Inter-
11 national Space Station as it relates to the strategic
12 importance of space station research, and intel-
13 ligence;

14 (4) continuation of NASA's Constellation pro-
15 gram is crucial to improving national security, cli-
16 mate, and research in science and medicine; and

17 (5) the United States should maintain its fund-
18 ing of the Constellation program and should begin
19 funding commercial space in 5 years and not sooner.

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