

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6208

To direct the President to develop a strategy to protect the space assets of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 2020

Mr. KINZINGER (for himself, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. TURNER, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. CROW, and Mrs. BUSTOS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the President to develop a strategy to protect the space assets of the United States, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting American
5 Space Assets Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Space is essential to—

1 (A) the military and intelligence oper-
2 ations, strategic deterrence, threat detection,
3 and communications of the United States; and

4 (B) effectively facilitate communication be-
5 tween global economic markets.

6 (2) The People's Republic of China has under-
7 cut space manufacturing programs run by the
8 United States, including satellite manufacturing and
9 launch service programs, through noncompetitive
10 price manipulation.

11 (3) China and the Russia Federation have
12 worked to develop counterspace weapons and elec-
13 tronic warfare capabilities (including electromag-
14 netic, antisatellite, and kinetic weapons) that have
15 the ability to target space assets that belong to the
16 United States.

17 (4) China and Russia have and continue to en-
18 gage in cyber attacks against critical infrastructure
19 of the United States and of allies of the United
20 States.

21 (5) Each year, actions taken by China have ex-
22 ponentially increased the risk of damage to space as-
23 sets that belong to the United States and allies of
24 the United States by significantly increasing the

1 amount of major debris in the orbit paths of such
2 assets.

3 (6) China has demonstrated the intent to keep
4 developing counterspace weapons that target space
5 assets that belong to the United States and allies of
6 the United States.

7 (7) China views space as central to the security
8 and economic industries of China in the future.

9 (8) China is striving to dominate economic in-
10 dustries that deal with space through research and
11 development aimed at increasing manufacturing, ex-
12 tracting resources, and increasing its leverage with
13 respect to countries that strive to develop space
14 technology.

15 (9) China is expanding its foreign network and
16 expanding its presence in space by developing
17 ground station capabilities in foreign nations and
18 promoting participation by such nations in the sat-
19 ellite navigation system administered by China.

20 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

21 It is the sense of Congress that the Government
22 should support activities in space by—

23 (1) modernizing the capabilities of the United
24 States and allies of the United States with respect
25 to space;

1 (2) providing protection for space assets, in-
2 cluding the supply chain related to such assets and
3 manufacturing process of such assets; and

4 (3) affirming the duties of the United States
5 Space Force under section 9081 of title 10, United
6 States Code.

7 **SEC. 4. SPACE STRATEGIES AND ASSESSMENT.**

8 (a) EXECUTIVE STRATEGY.—

9 (1) STRATEGY REQUIREMENT.—Not later than
10 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
11 the President, in consultation with the National
12 Space Council, shall develop and maintain a strategy
13 to ensure that the United States strengthens mili-
14 tary and commercial capabilities in space, increases
15 protections for military and commercial operations
16 with respect to space, and increases protections for
17 space manufacturing programs and launch sites, in-
18 cluding military launch sites and launch sites oper-
19 ated by individuals or entities in the private sector.

20 (2) INCLUSION IN THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
21 STRATEGY.—The Secretary of Defense shall include
22 the strategy most recently developed pursuant to
23 paragraph (1) in the national defense strategy re-
24 quired under section 113(g) of title 10, United
25 States Code.

1 (b) SPACE STRATEGY AND REPORT.—Not later than
2 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
3 Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of
4 Commerce, shall submit to the appropriate congressional
5 committees a report setting forth a strategy to—

6 (1) protect the space assets of the United
7 States, including the supply chain related to such as-
8 sets and manufacturing process of such assets, from
9 threats from the People’s Republic of China and the
10 Russian Federation, which may include protection
11 from intellectual property theft and threats with re-
12 spect to electronic warfare capabilities; and

13 (2) strengthen relations with the allies of the
14 United States with respect to space.

15 (c) ASSESSMENT AND REPORT.—

16 (1) ASSESSMENT AND REPORT REQUIRE-
17 MENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of
18 the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense,
19 in consultation with the Director of National Intel-
20 ligence, shall submit to the appropriate congressional
21 committees a report that includes—

22 (A) an assessment of the capabilities of the
23 Department of Defense to protect—

24 (i) commercial communication and
25 navigation systems in space;

1 (ii) military launch sites; and

2 (iii) launch sites operated by individ-
3 uals or entities in the private sector; and

4 (B) recommendations to improve the capa-
5 bilities assessed pursuant to subparagraph (A),
6 including recommendations with respect to—

7 (i) the electronic warfare capabilities
8 of China and Russia; and

9 (ii) the use of counterspace weapons
10 and cyber attacks by China and Russia.

11 (2) FORM.—The report under paragraph (1)
12 may be submitted in classified form. If submitted in
13 such form, the report shall include an unclassified
14 summary.

15 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
17 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
18 mittees” means—

19 (A) the Committee on Armed Services of
20 the House of Representatives;

21 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
22 the House of Representatives;

23 (C) the Committee on Energy and Com-
24 merce of the House of Representatives;

1 (D) the Permanent Select Committee on
2 Intelligence of the House of Representatives;

3 (E) the Committee on Armed Services of
4 the Senate;

5 (F) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
6 the Senate;

7 (G) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
8 and Transportation of the Senate; and

9 (H) the Select Committee on Intelligence
10 of the Senate.

11 (2) LAUNCH SITE.—The term “launch site” has
12 the meaning given that term under section 50902 of
13 title 51, United States Code.

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