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§ 18301. Findings

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States human space flight program has, since the first Mercury flight on May 5, 1961, been a source of pride and inspiration for the Nation.

(2) The establishment of and commitment to human exploration goals is essential for providing the necessary long term focus and programmatic consistency and robustness of the United States civilian space program.

(3) The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is and should remain a multi-mission agency with a balanced and robust set of core missions in science, aeronautics, and human space flight and exploration.

(4) In the 50 years since the establishment of NASA, the arena of space has evolved substantially. As the uses and users of space continue to expand, the issues and operations in the regions closest to Earth have become increasingly complex, with a growing number of overlaps between civil, commercial and national security activities. These developments present opportunities and challenges to the space activities of NASA and the United States.

(5) The extraordinary challenges of achieving access to space both motivated and accelerated the development of technologies and industrial capabilities that have had widespread applications which have contributed to the technological excellence of the United States. It is essential to tie space activity to human challenges ranging from enhancing the influence, relationships, security, economic development, and commerce of the United States to improving the overall human condition.

(6) It is essential to the economic well-being of the United States that the aerospace industrial capacity, highly skilled workforce, and embedded expertise remain engaged in demanding, challenging, and exciting efforts that ensure United States leadership in space exploration and related activities.

(7) Crewmembers provide the essential component to ensure the return on investment from and the growth and safe operation of the ISS. The Russian Soyuz vehicle has allowed continued human presence on the ISS for United States crewmembers with its ability to serve as both a routine and backup capability for crew delivery, rescue, and return. With the impending retirement of the Space Shuttle, the United States will find itself with no national crew delivery and return system. Without any other system, the United States and all the ISS partners will have no redundant system for human access to and from the ISS. It is therefore essential that a United States capability be developed as soon as possible.

(8) Existing and emerging United States commercial launch capabilities and emerging launch capabilities offer the potential for providing crew support assets. New capabilities for human crew access to the ISS should be developed in a manner that ensures ISS mission assurance and safety. Commercial services offer the potential to broaden the availability and access to space at lower costs.

(9) While commercial transportation systems have the promise to contribute valuable services, it is in the United States national interest to maintain a government operated space transportation system for crew and cargo delivery to space.

(10) Congress restates its commitment, expressed in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005¹ (Public Law 109-155) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2008¹ (Public Law 110-422), to the development of commercially developed launch and delivery systems to the ISS for crew and cargo missions. Congress reaffirms that NASA shall make use of United States commercially provided ISS crew transfer and crew rescue services to the maximum extent practicable.

(11) It is critical to identify an appropriate combination of NASA and related United States Government programs, while providing a framework that allows partnering, leveraging and stimulation of the existing and emerging commercial and international efforts in both near Earth space and the regions beyond.

¹ See References in Text note below.

(12) The designation of the United States segment of the ISS as a National Laboratory, as provided by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005¹ and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2008,¹ provides an opportunity for multiple United States Government agencies, university-based researchers, research organizations, and others to utilize the unique environment of microgravity for fundamental scientific research and potential economic development.

(13) For some potential replacement elements necessary for ISS sustainability, the Space Shuttle may represent the only vehicle, existing or planned, capable of carrying those elements to the ISS in the near term. Additional or alternative transportation capabilities must be identified as contingency delivery options, and accompanied by an independent analysis of projected availability of such capabilities.

(14) The United States must develop, as rapidly as possible, replacement vehicles capable of providing both human and cargo launch capability to low-Earth orbit and to destinations beyond low-Earth orbit.

(15) There is a need for national space and export control policies that protect the national security of the United States while also enabling the United States and its aerospace industry to undertake cooperative programs in science and human space flight in an effective and efficient manner and to compete effectively in the global market place.

(Pub. L. 111-267, § 2, Oct. 11, 2010, 124 Stat. 2807.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005, referred to in pars. (10) and (12), is Pub. L. 109-155, Dec. 30, 2005, 119 Stat. 2895, which was classified principally to chapter 150 (§16601 et seq.) of this title, and was substantially repealed and re-stated in chapters 305 (§30501 et seq.), 401 (§40101 et seq.), 603 (§60301 et seq.) and 707 (§70701 et seq.) and sections 20301, 20302, 30103(a), (b), 30104, 30306, 30703, 30704, 30902, 31301, 31501, 40701, 40904 to 40909, 50505, 50116, 60505, 70501 to 70503, and 70902 to 70905 of Title 51, National and Commercial Space Programs, by Pub. L. 111-314, §§ 3, 6, Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3328, 3444. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 2005 Act note set out under section 10101 of Title 51 and Tables.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2008, referred to in pars. (10) and (12), is Pub. L. 110-422, Oct. 15, 2008, 122 Stat. 4779, which was classified principally to chapter 155 (§17701 et seq.) of this title, and was substantially repealed and re-stated as chapters 711 (§71101 et seq.) and 713 (§71301 et seq.) and sections 20305, 30305, 30310, 31302, 31502 to 31505, 40104, 40311, 40702 to 40704, 40903(d), 50111(b), 60501 to 60504, 60506, 70504 to 70508, 70906, and 70907 of Title 51, National and Commercial Space Programs, by Pub. L. 111-314, §§ 3, 6, Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3328, 3444. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 2008 Act note set out under section 10101 of Title 51 and Tables.

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 111-267, §1(a), Oct. 11, 2010, 124 Stat. 2805, provided that: "This Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the 'National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010'."

§ 18302. Definitions

In this chapter:

(1) Administrator

The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(2) Appropriate committees of Congress

The term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Science¹ of the House of Representatives.

(3) Cis-lunar space

The term "cis-lunar space" means the region of space from the Earth out to and including the region around the surface of the Moon.

(4) Deep space

The term "deep space" means the region of space beyond cis-lunar space.

(5) ISS

The term "ISS" means the International Space Station.

(6) NASA

The term "NASA" means the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(7) Near-Earth space

The term "near-Earth space" means the region of space that includes low-Earth orbit and extends out to and includes geo-synchronous orbit.

(8) NOAA

The term "NOAA" means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(9) OSTP

The term "OSTP" means the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

(10) Space Launch System

The term "Space Launch System" means the follow-on government-owned civil launch system developed, managed, and operated by NASA to serve as a key component to expand human presence beyond low-Earth orbit.

(Pub. L. 111-267, § 3, Oct. 11, 2010, 124 Stat. 2808.)

SUBCHAPTER I—POLICY, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES FOR HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT AND EXPLORATION

§ 18311. United States human space flight policy

(a) Use of non-United States human space flight transportation capabilities

It is the policy of the United States that reliance upon and use of non-United States human space flight capabilities shall be undertaken only as a contingency in circumstances where no United States-owned and operated human space flight capability is available, operational, and certified for flight by appropriate Federal agencies.

(b) United States human space flight capabilities

Congress reaffirms the policy stated in section 70501(a) of title 51, that the United States shall

¹So in original. Probably should be followed by "and Technology".