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1ST SESSION

H. R. 810

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 11, 2015

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation

AN ACT

To authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and
Space Administration, 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,*

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

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
 3 “National Aeronautics and Space Administration Author-
 4 ization Act of 2015”.

5 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
 6 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

- Sec. 101. Fiscal year 2015.

TITLE II—HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT

Subtitle A—Exploration

- Sec. 201. Space exploration policy.
- Sec. 202. Stepping stone approach to exploration.
- Sec. 203. Space Launch System.
- Sec. 204. Orion crew capsule.
- Sec. 205. Space radiation.
- Sec. 206. Planetary protection for human exploration missions.

Subtitle B—Space Operations

- Sec. 211. International Space Station.
- Sec. 212. Barriers impeding enhanced utilization of the ISS’s National Labora-
 tory by commercial companies.
- Sec. 213. Utilization of International Space Station for science missions.
- Sec. 214. International Space Station cargo resupply services lessons learned.
- Sec. 215. Commercial crew program.
- Sec. 216. Space communications.

TITLE III—SCIENCE

Subtitle A—General

- Sec. 301. Science portfolio.
- Sec. 302. Radioisotope power systems.
- Sec. 303. Congressional declaration of policy and purpose.
- Sec. 304. University class science missions.
- Sec. 305. Assessment of science mission extensions.

Subtitle B—Astrophysics

- Sec. 311. Decadal cadence.
- Sec. 312. Extrasolar planet exploration strategy.
- Sec. 313. James Webb Space Telescope.
- Sec. 314. National Reconnaissance Office telescope donation.
- Sec. 315. Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope.

Sec. 316. Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy.

Subtitle C—Planetary Science

- Sec. 321. Decadal cadence.
- Sec. 322. Near-Earth objects.
- Sec. 323. Near-Earth objects public-private partnerships.
- Sec. 324. Research on near-Earth object tsunami effects.
- Sec. 325. Astrobiology strategy.
- Sec. 326. Astrobiology public-private partnerships.
- Sec. 327. Assessment of Mars architecture.

Subtitle D—Heliophysics

- Sec. 331. Decadal cadence.
- Sec. 332. Review of space weather.

Subtitle E—Earth Science

- Sec. 341. Goal.
- Sec. 342. Decadal cadence.
- Sec. 343. Venture class missions.
- Sec. 344. Assessment.

TITLE IV—AERONAUTICS

- Sec. 401. Sense of Congress.
- Sec. 402. Aeronautics research goals.
- Sec. 403. Unmanned aerial systems research and development.
- Sec. 404. Research program on composite materials used in aeronautics.
- Sec. 405. Hypersonic research.
- Sec. 406. Supersonic research.
- Sec. 407. Research on NextGen airspace management concepts and tools.
- Sec. 408. Rotorcraft research.
- Sec. 409. Transformative aeronautics research.
- Sec. 410. Study of United States leadership in aeronautics research.

TITLE V—SPACE TECHNOLOGY

- Sec. 501. Sense of Congress.
- Sec. 502. Space Technology Program.
- Sec. 503. Utilization of the International Space Station for technology demonstrations.

TITLE VI—EDUCATION

- Sec. 601. Education.
- Sec. 602. Independent review of the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program.
- Sec. 603. Sense of Congress.

TITLE VII—POLICY PROVISIONS

- Sec. 701. Asteroid Retrieval Mission.
- Sec. 702. Termination liability sense of Congress.
- Sec. 703. Baseline and cost controls.
- Sec. 704. Project and program reserves.
- Sec. 705. Independent reviews.

- Sec. 706. Commercial technology transfer program.
- Sec. 707. National Aeronautics and Space Administration Advisory Council.
- Sec. 708. Cost estimation.
- Sec. 709. Avoiding organizational conflicts of interest in major Administration acquisition programs.
- Sec. 710. Facilities and infrastructure.
- Sec. 711. Detection and avoidance of counterfeit electronic parts.
- Sec. 712. Space Act Agreements.
- Sec. 713. Human spaceflight accident investigations.
- Sec. 714. Fullest commercial use of space.
- Sec. 715. Orbital debris.
- Sec. 716. Review of orbital debris removal concepts.
- Sec. 717. Use of operational commercial suborbital vehicles for research, development, and education.
- Sec. 718. Fundamental space life and physical sciences research.
- Sec. 719. Restoring commitment to engineering research.
- Sec. 720. Liquid rocket engine development program.
- Sec. 721. Remote satellite servicing demonstrations.
- Sec. 722. Information technology governance.
- Sec. 723. Strengthening Administration security.
- Sec. 724. Prohibition on use of funds for contractors that have committed fraud or other crimes.
- Sec. 725. Protection of Apollo landing sites.
- Sec. 726. Astronaut occupational healthcare.
- Sec. 727. Sense of Congress on access to observational data sets.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term “Administra-
4 tion” means the National Aeronautics and Space
5 Administration.

6 (2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
7 trator” means the Administrator of the Administra-
8 tion.

9 (3) ORION CREW CAPSULE.—The term “Orion
10 crew capsule” means the multipurpose crew vehicle
11 described in section 303 of the National Aeronautics
12 and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010
13 (42 U.S.C. 18323).

1 (4) SPACE ACT AGREEMENT.—The term “Space
2 Act Agreement” means an agreement created under
3 the authority to enter into “other transactions”
4 under section 20113(e) of title 51, United States
5 Code.

6 (5) SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM.—The term “Space
7 Launch System” means the follow-on Government-
8 owned civil launch system developed, managed, and
9 operated by the Administration to serve as a key
10 component to expand human presence beyond low-
11 Earth orbit, as described in section 302 of the Na-
12 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration Au-
13 thorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322).

14 **TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF**
15 **APPROPRIATIONS**

16 **SEC. 101. FISCAL YEAR 2015.**

17 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Ad-
18 ministration for fiscal year 2015 \$18,010,200,000 as fol-
19 lows:

20 (1) For Space Exploration, \$4,356,700,000, of
21 which—

22 (A) \$1,700,000,000 shall be for the Space
23 Launch System;

24 (B) \$351,300,000 shall be for Exploration
25 Ground Systems;

1 (C) \$1,194,000,000 shall be for the Orion
2 crew capsule;

3 (D) \$306,400,000 shall be for Exploration
4 Research and Development; and

5 (E) \$805,000,000 shall be for Commercial
6 Crew Development activities.

7 (2) For Space Operations, \$3,827,800,000.

8 (3) For Science, \$5,244,700,000, of which—

9 (A) \$1,772,500,000 shall be for Earth
10 Science;

11 (B) \$1,437,800,000 shall be for Planetary
12 Science, with up to \$30,000,000 for the
13 Astrobiology Institute;

14 (C) \$684,800,000 shall be for Astro-
15 physics;

16 (D) \$645,400,000 shall be for the James
17 Webb Space Telescope;

18 (E) \$662,200,000 shall be for
19 Heliophysics; and

20 (F) \$42,000,000 shall be for Education.

21 (4) For Aeronautics, \$651,000,000.

22 (5) For Space Technology, \$596,000,000.

23 (6) For Education, \$119,000,000.

24 (7) For Safety, Security, and Mission Services,
25 \$2,758,900,000.

1 (8) For Construction and Environmental Com-
2 pliance and Restoration, \$419,100,000.

3 (9) For Inspector General, \$37,000,000.

4 **TITLE II—HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT**
5 **Subtitle A—Exploration**

6 **SEC. 201. SPACE EXPLORATION POLICY.**

7 (a) **POLICY.**—Human exploration deeper into the
8 Solar System shall be a core mission of the Administra-
9 tion. It is the policy of the United States that the goal
10 of the Administration’s exploration program shall be to
11 successfully conduct a crewed mission to the surface of
12 Mars to begin human exploration of that planet. The use
13 of the surface of the Moon, cis-lunar space, near-Earth
14 asteroids, Lagrangian points, and Martian moons may be
15 pursued provided they are properly incorporated into the
16 Human Exploration Roadmap described in section 70504
17 of title 51, United States Code.

18 (b) **VISION FOR SPACE EXPLORATION.**—Section
19 20302 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by add-
20 ing at the end the following:

21 “(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

22 “(1) **ORION CREW CAPSULE.**—The term ‘Orion
23 crew capsule’ means the multipurpose crew vehicle
24 described in section 303 of the National Aeronautics

1 and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010
2 (42 U.S.C. 18323).

3 “(2) SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM.—The term
4 ‘Space Launch System’ means the follow-on Govern-
5 ment-owned civil launch system developed, managed,
6 and operated by the Administration to serve as a
7 key component to expand human presence beyond
8 low-Earth orbit, as described in section 302 of the
9 National Aeronautics and Space Administration Au-
10 thorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322).”.

11 (c) KEY OBJECTIVES.—Section 202(b) of the Na-
12 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration Authoriza-
13 tion Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18312(b)) is amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” after
15 the semicolon;

16 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at
17 the end and inserting “; and”; and

18 (3) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(5) to accelerate the development of capabili-
20 ties to enable a human exploration mission to the
21 surface of Mars and beyond through the
22 prioritization of those technologies and capabilities
23 best suited for such a mission in accordance with the
24 Human Exploration Roadmap under section 70504
25 of title 51, United States Code.”.

1 (d) USE OF NON-UNITED STATES HUMAN SPACE
2 FLIGHT TRANSPORTATION CAPABILITIES.—Section
3 201(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administra-
4 tion Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18311(a)) is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 “(a) USE OF NON-UNITED STATES HUMAN SPACE
7 FLIGHT TRANSPORTATION CAPABILITIES.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—NASA may not obtain non-
9 United States human space flight capabilities unless
10 no domestic commercial or public-private partnership
11 provider that the Administrator has determined to
12 meet safety and affordability requirements estab-
13 lished by NASA for the transport of its astronauts
14 is available to provide such capabilities.

15 “(2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this sub-
16 section, the term ‘domestic commercial provider’
17 means a person providing space transportation serv-
18 ices or other space-related activities, the majority
19 control of which is held by persons other than a
20 Federal, State, local, or foreign government, foreign
21 company, or foreign national.”.

22 (e) REPEAL OF SPACE SHUTTLE CAPABILITY ASSUR-
23 ANCE.—Section 203 of the National Aeronautics and
24 Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42
25 U.S.C. 18313) is amended—

- 1 (1) by striking subsection (b);
- 2 (2) in subsection (d), by striking “subsection
- 3 (c)” and inserting “subsection (b)”; and
- 4 (3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as
- 5 subsections (b) and (c), respectively.

6 **SEC. 202. STEPPING STONE APPROACH TO EXPLORATION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 70504 of title 51, United
8 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

9 **“§ 70504. Stepping stone approach to exploration**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to maximize the cost
11 effectiveness of the long-term space exploration and utili-
12 zation activities of the United States, the Administrator
13 shall direct the Human Exploration and Operations Mis-
14 sion Directorate, or its successor division, to develop a
15 Human Exploration Roadmap to define the specific capa-
16 bilities and technologies necessary to extend human pres-
17 ence to the surface of Mars and the sets and sequences
18 of missions required to demonstrate such capabilities and
19 technologies.

20 “(b) INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION.—The Presi-
21 dent should invite the United States partners in the Inter-
22 national Space Station program and other nations, as ap-
23 propriate, to participate in an international initiative
24 under the leadership of the United States to achieve the

1 goal of successfully conducting a crewed mission to the
2 surface of Mars.

3 “(c) ROADMAP REQUIREMENTS.—In developing the
4 Human Exploration Roadmap, the Administrator shall—

5 “(1) include the specific set of capabilities and
6 technologies that contribute to extending human
7 presence to the surface of Mars and the sets and se-
8 quences of missions necessary to demonstrate the
9 proficiency of these capabilities and technologies
10 with an emphasis on using or not using the Inter-
11 national Space Station, lunar landings, cis-lunar
12 space, trans-lunar space, Lagrangian points, and the
13 natural satellites of Mars, Phobos and Deimos, as
14 testbeds, as necessary, and shall include the most
15 appropriate process for developing such capabilities
16 and technologies;

17 “(2) include information on the phasing of
18 planned intermediate destinations, Mars mission risk
19 areas and potential risk mitigation approaches, tech-
20 nology requirements and phasing of required tech-
21 nology development activities, the management strat-
22 egy to be followed, related International Space Sta-
23 tion activities, and planned international collabo-
24 rative activities, potential commercial contributions,
25 and other activities relevant to the achievement of

1 the goal established in section 201(a) of the Na-
2 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration Au-
3 thorization Act of 2015;

4 “(3) describe those technologies already under
5 development across the Federal Government or by
6 nongovernment entities which meet or exceed the
7 needs described in paragraph (1);

8 “(4) provide a specific process for the evolution
9 of the capabilities of the fully integrated Orion crew
10 capsule with the Space Launch System and how
11 these systems demonstrate the capabilities and tech-
12 nologies described in paragraph (1);

13 “(5) provide a description of the capabilities
14 and technologies that need to be demonstrated or re-
15 search data that could be gained through the utiliza-
16 tion of the International Space Station and the sta-
17 tus of the development of such capabilities and tech-
18 nologies;

19 “(6) describe a framework for international co-
20 operation in the development of all technologies and
21 capabilities required in this section, as well as an as-
22 sessment of the risks posed by relying on inter-
23 national partners for capabilities and technologies on
24 the critical path of development;

1 “(7) describe a process for utilizing nongovern-
2 mental entities for future human exploration beyond
3 lunar landings and cis-lunar space and specify what,
4 if any, synergy could be gained from—

5 “(A) partnerships using Space Act Agree-
6 ments (as defined in section 2 of the National
7 Aeronautics and Space Administration Author-
8 ization Act of 2015); or

9 “(B) other acquisition instruments;

10 “(8) include in the Human Exploration Road-
11 map an addendum from the National Aeronautics
12 and Space Administration Advisory Council, and an
13 addendum from the Aerospace Safety Advisory
14 Panel, each with a statement of review of the
15 Human Exploration Roadmap that shall include—

16 “(A) subjects of agreement;

17 “(B) areas of concern; and

18 “(C) recommendations; and

19 “(9) include in the Human Exploration Road-
20 map an examination of the benefits of utilizing cur-
21 rent Administration launch facilities for trans-lunar
22 missions.

23 “(d) UPDATES.—The Administrator shall update
24 such Human Exploration Roadmap as needed but no less
25 frequently than every 2 years and include it in the budget

1 for that fiscal year transmitted to Congress under section
2 1105(a) of title 31, and describe—

3 “(1) the achievements and goals reached in the
4 process of developing such capabilities and tech-
5 nologies during the 2-year period prior to the sub-
6 mission of the update to Congress; and

7 “(2) the expected goals and achievements in the
8 following 2-year period.

9 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ‘Orion
10 crew capsule’ and ‘Space Launch System’ have the mean-
11 ings given such terms in section 20302.”.

12 (b) REPORT.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
14 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
15 trator shall transmit a copy of the Human Explo-
16 ration Roadmap developed under section 70504 of
17 title 51, United States Code, to the Committee on
18 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of
19 Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
20 Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

21 (2) UPDATES.—The Administrator shall trans-
22 mit a copy of each updated Human Exploration
23 Roadmap to the Committee on Science, Space, and
24 Technology of the House of Representatives and the
25 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-

1 tation of the Senate not later than 7 days after such
2 Human Exploration Roadmap is updated.

3 **SEC. 203. SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

5 (1) the Space Launch System is the most prac-
6 tical approach to reaching the Moon, Mars, and be-
7 yond, and Congress reaffirms the policy and min-
8 imum capability requirements for the Space Launch
9 System contained in section 302 of the National
10 Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization
11 Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322);

12 (2) the primary goal for the design of the fully
13 integrated Space Launch System, including an
14 upper stage needed to go beyond low-Earth orbit, is
15 to safely carry a total payload to enable human
16 space exploration of the Moon, Mars, and beyond
17 over the course of the next century as required in
18 section 302(c) of the National Aeronautics and
19 Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42
20 U.S.C. 18322(c)); and

21 (3) in order to promote safety and reduce pro-
22 grammatic risk, the Administrator shall budget for
23 and undertake a robust ground test and uncrewed
24 and crewed flight test and demonstration program
25 for the Space Launch System and the Orion crew

1 capsule and shall budget for an operational flight
2 rate sufficient to maintain safety and operational
3 readiness.

4 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
5 gress that the President’s annual budget requests for the
6 Space Launch System and Orion crew capsule develop-
7 ment, test, and operational phases should strive to accu-
8 rately reflect the resource requirements of each of those
9 phases, consistent with the policy established in section
10 201(a) of this Act.

11 (c) IN GENERAL.—Given the critical importance of
12 a heavy-lift launch vehicle and crewed spacecraft to enable
13 the achievement of the goal established in section 201(a)
14 of this Act, as well as the accomplishment of intermediate
15 exploration milestones and the provision of a backup capa-
16 bility to transfer crew and cargo to the International
17 Space Station, the Administrator shall make the expedi-
18 tious development, test, and achievement of operational
19 readiness of the Space Launch System and the Orion crew
20 capsule the highest priority of the exploration program.

21 (d) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE RE-
22 VIEW.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enact-
23 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall transmit
24 to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of
25 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-

1 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report
2 on the Administration's acquisition of ground systems in
3 support of the Space Launch System. The report shall as-
4 sess the extent to which ground systems acquired in sup-
5 port of the Space Launch System are focused on the direct
6 support of the Space Launch System and shall identify
7 any ground support projects or activities that the Admin-
8 istration is undertaking that do not solely or primarily
9 support the Space Launch System.

10 (e) UTILIZATION REPORT.—The Administrator, in
11 consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Direc-
12 tor of National Intelligence, shall prepare a report that
13 addresses the effort and budget required to enable and
14 utilize a cargo variant of the 130-ton Space Launch Sys-
15 tem configuration described in section 302(c) of the Na-
16 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration Authoriza-
17 tion Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322(c)). This report shall
18 also include consideration of the technical requirements of
19 the scientific and national security communities related to
20 such Space Launch System and shall directly assess the
21 utility and estimated cost savings obtained by using such
22 Space Launch System for national security and space
23 science missions. The Administrator shall transmit such
24 report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-
25 nology of the House of Representatives and the Committee

1 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate
2 not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of
3 this Act.

4 (f) NAMING COMPETITION.—Beginning not later
5 than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and
6 concluding not later than 1 year after such date of enact-
7 ment, the Administrator shall conduct a well-publicized
8 competition among students in elementary and secondary
9 schools to name the elements of the Administration’s ex-
10 ploration program, including—

11 (1) a name for the deep space human explo-
12 ration program as a whole, which includes the Space
13 Launch System, the Orion crew capsule, and future
14 missions; and

15 (2) a name for the Space Launch System.

16 (g) ADVANCED BOOSTER COMPETITION.—

17 (1) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the
18 date of enactment of this Act, the Associate Admin-
19 istrator of the Administration shall transmit to the
20 Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the
21 House of Representatives and the Committee on
22 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
23 ate a report that—

1 (A) describes the estimated total develop-
2 ment cost of an advanced booster for the Space
3 Launch System;

4 (B) details any reductions or increases to
5 the development cost of the Space Launch Sys-
6 tem which may result from conducting a com-
7 petition for an advanced booster; and

8 (C) outlines any potential schedule delay to
9 the Space Launch System 2017 Exploration
10 Mission-1 launch as a result of increased costs
11 associated with conducting a competition for an
12 advanced booster.

13 (2) COMPETITION.—If the Associate Adminis-
14 trator reports reductions pursuant to paragraph
15 (1)(B), and no adverse schedule impact pursuant to
16 paragraph (1)(C), then the Administration shall con-
17 duct a full and open competition for an advanced
18 booster for the Space Launch System to meet the
19 requirements described in section 302(c) of the Na-
20 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration Au-
21 thorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322(c)), to
22 begin as soon as practicable after the development of
23 the upper stage has been initiated.

1 **SEC. 204. ORION CREW CAPSULE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Orion crew capsule shall meet
3 the practical needs and the minimum capability require-
4 ments described in section 303 of the National Aero-
5 nautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of
6 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18323).

7 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date
8 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit
9 a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-
10 nology of the House of Representatives and the Committee
11 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
12 ate—

13 (1) detailing those components and systems of
14 the Orion crew capsule that ensure it is in compli-
15 ance with section 303(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
16 18323(b));

17 (2) detailing the expected date that the Orion
18 crew capsule will be available to transport crew and
19 cargo to the International Space Station; and

20 (3) certifying that the requirements of section
21 303(b)(3) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 18323(b)(3)) will
22 be met by the Administration.

23 **SEC. 205. SPACE RADIATION.**

24 (a) STRATEGY AND PLAN.—

25 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall de-
26 velop a space radiation mitigation and management

1 strategy and implementation plan to enable the
2 achievement of the goal established in section 201
3 that includes key research and monitoring require-
4 ments, milestones, a timetable, and an estimate of
5 facility and budgetary requirements.

6 (2) COORDINATION.—The strategy shall include
7 a mechanism for coordinating Administration re-
8 search, technology, facilities, engineering, operations,
9 and other functions required to support the strategy
10 and plan.

11 (3) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 1 year after
12 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
13 shall transmit the strategy and plan to the Com-
14 mittee on Science, Space, and Technology of the
15 House of Representatives and the Committee on
16 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
17 ate.

18 (b) SPACE RADIATION RESEARCH FACILITIES.—The
19 Administrator, in consultation with the heads of other ap-
20 propriate Federal agencies, shall assess the national capa-
21 bilities for carrying out critical ground-based research on
22 space radiation biology and shall identify any issues that
23 could affect the ability to carry out that research.

1 **SEC. 206. PLANETARY PROTECTION FOR HUMAN EXPLO-**
2 **RATION MISSIONS.**

3 (a) STUDY.—The Administrator shall enter into an
4 arrangement with the National Academies for a study to
5 explore the planetary protection ramifications of potential
6 future missions by astronauts such as to the lunar polar
7 regions, near-Earth asteroids, the moons of Mars, and the
8 surface of Mars.

9 (b) SCOPE.—The study shall—

10 (1) collate and summarize what has been done
11 to date with respect to planetary protection meas-
12 ures to be applied to potential human missions such
13 as to the lunar polar regions, near-Earth asteroids,
14 the moons of Mars, and the surface of Mars;

15 (2) identify and document planetary protection
16 concerns associated with potential human missions
17 such as to the lunar polar regions, near-Earth aster-
18 oids, the moons of Mars, and the surface of Mars;

19 (3) develop a methodology, if possible, for defin-
20 ing and classifying the degree of concern associated
21 with each likely destination;

22 (4) assess likely methodologies for addressing
23 planetary protection concerns; and

24 (5) identify areas for future research to reduce
25 current uncertainties.

1 (c) COMPLETION DATE.—Not later than 2 years
2 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
3 shall provide the results of the study to the Committee
4 on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
5 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
6 and Transportation of the Senate.

7 **Subtitle B—Space Operations**

8 **SEC. 211. INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION.**

9 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

10 (1) The International Space Station is an ideal
11 testbed for future exploration systems development,
12 including long-duration space travel.

13 (2) The use of the private market to provide
14 cargo and crew transportation services is currently
15 the most expeditious process to restore domestic ac-
16 cess to the International Space Station and low-
17 Earth orbit.

18 (3) Government access to low-Earth orbit is
19 paramount to the continued success of the Inter-
20 national Space Station and National Laboratory.

21 (b) IN GENERAL.—The following is the policy of the
22 United States:

23 (1) The United States International Space Sta-
24 tion program shall have two primary objectives: sup-
25 porting achievement of the goal established in sec-

1 tion 201 of this Act and pursuing a research pro-
2 gram that advances knowledge and provides benefits
3 to the Nation. It shall continue to be the policy of
4 the United States to, in consultation with its inter-
5 national partners in the International Space Station
6 program, support full and complete utilization of the
7 International Space Station.

8 (2) The International Space Station shall be
9 utilized to the maximum extent practicable for the
10 development of capabilities and technologies needed
11 for the future of human exploration beyond low-
12 Earth orbit and shall be considered in the develop-
13 ment of the Human Exploration Roadmap developed
14 under section 70504 of title 51, United States Code.

15 (3) The Administrator shall, in consultation
16 with the International Space Station partners—

17 (A) take all necessary measures to support
18 the operation and full utilization of the Inter-
19 national Space Station; and

20 (B) seek to minimize, to the extent prac-
21 ticable, the operating costs of the International
22 Space Station.

23 (4) Reliance on foreign carriers for crew trans-
24 fer is unacceptable, and the Nation's human space
25 flight program must acquire the capability to launch

1 United States astronauts on United States rockets
2 from United States soil as soon as is safe and prac-
3 tically possible, whether on Government-owned and
4 operated space transportation systems or privately
5 owned systems that have been certified for flight by
6 the appropriate Federal agencies.

7 (c) REAFFIRMATION OF POLICY.—Congress reaf-
8 firms—

9 (1) its commitment to the development of a
10 commercially developed launch and delivery system
11 to the International Space Station for crew missions
12 as expressed in the National Aeronautics and Space
13 Administration Authorization Act of 2005 (Public
14 Law 109–155), the National Aeronautics and Space
15 Administration Authorization Act of 2008 (Public
16 Law 110–422), and the National Aeronautics and
17 Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010
18 (Public Law 111–267);

19 (2) that the Administration shall make use of
20 United States commercially provided International
21 Space Station crew transfer and crew rescue services
22 to the maximum extent practicable;

23 (3) that the Orion crew capsule shall provide an
24 alternative means of delivery of crew and cargo to
25 the International Space Station, in the event other

1 vehicles, whether commercial vehicles or partner-sup-
2 plied vehicles, are unable to perform that function;
3 and

4 (4) the policy stated in section 501(b) of the
5 National Aeronautics and Space Administration Au-
6 thorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18351(b)) that
7 the Administration shall pursue international, com-
8 mercial, and intragovernmental means to maximize
9 International Space Station logistics supply, mainte-
10 nance, and operational capabilities, reduce risks to
11 International Space Station systems sustainability,
12 and offset and minimize United States operations
13 costs relating to the International Space Station.

14 (d) ASSURED ACCESS TO LOW-EARTH ORBIT.—Sec-
15 tion 70501(a) of title 51, United States Code, is amended
16 to read as follows:

17 “(a) POLICY STATEMENT.—It is the policy of the
18 United States to maintain an uninterrupted capability for
19 human space flight and operations in low-Earth orbit, and
20 beyond, as an essential instrument of national security
21 and the capability to ensure continued United States par-
22 ticipation and leadership in the exploration and utilization
23 of space.”.

24 (e) REPEALS.—

1 (1) USE OF SPACE SHUTTLE OR ALTER-
2 NATIVES.—Chapter 701 of title 51, United States
3 Code, and the item relating to such chapter in the
4 table of chapters for such title, are repealed.

5 (2) SHUTTLE PRICING POLICY FOR COMMER-
6 CIAL AND FOREIGN USERS.—Chapter 703 of title
7 51, United States Code, and the item relating to
8 such chapter in the table of chapters for such title,
9 are repealed.

10 (3) SHUTTLE PRIVATIZATION.—Section 50133
11 of title 51, United States Code, and the item relat-
12 ing to such section in the table of sections for chap-
13 ter 501 of such title, are repealed.

14 (f) EXTENSION CRITERIA REPORT.—Not later than
15 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Admin-
16 istrator shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space,
17 and Technology of the House of Representatives and the
18 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of
19 the Senate a report on the feasibility of extending the op-
20 eration of the International Space Station that includes—

21 (1) criteria for defining the International Space
22 Station as a research success;

23 (2) any necessary contributions to enabling exe-
24 cution of the Human Exploration Roadmap devel-

1 oped under section 70504 of title 51, United States
2 Code;

3 (3) cost estimates for operating the Inter-
4 national Space Station to achieve the criteria re-
5 quired under paragraph (1);

6 (4) cost estimates for extending operations to
7 2024 and 2030;

8 (5) an assessment of how the defined criteria
9 under paragraph (1) respond to the National Acad-
10 emies Decadal Survey on Biological and Physical
11 Sciences in Space; and

12 (6) an identification of the actions and cost es-
13 timate needed to deorbit the International Space
14 Station once a decision is made to deorbit the lab-
15 oratory.

16 (g) STRATEGIC PLAN FOR INTERNATIONAL SPACE
17 STATION RESEARCH.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of
19 Science and Technology Policy, in consultation with
20 the Administrator, academia, other Federal agencies,
21 the International Space Station National Laboratory
22 Advisory Committee, and other potential stake-
23 holders, shall develop and transmit to the Committee
24 on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of
25 Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,

1 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a stra-
2 tegic plan for conducting competitive, peer-reviewed
3 research in physical and life sciences and related
4 technologies on the International Space Station
5 through at least 2020.

6 (2) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—The strategic plan
7 shall—

8 (A) be consistent with the priorities and
9 recommendations established by the National
10 Academies in its Decadal Survey on Biological
11 and Physical Sciences in Space;

12 (B) provide a research timeline and iden-
13 tify resource requirements for its implementa-
14 tion, including the facilities and instrumenta-
15 tion necessary for the conduct of such research;
16 and

17 (C) identify—

18 (i) criteria for the proposed research,
19 including—

20 (I) a justification for the research
21 to be carried out in the space micro-
22 gravity environment;

23 (II) the use of model systems;

24 (III) the testing of flight hard-
25 ware to understand and ensure its

1 functioning in the microgravity envi-
2 ronment;

3 (IV) the use of controls to help
4 distinguish among the direct and indi-
5 rect effects of microgravity, among
6 other effects of the flight or space en-
7 vironment;

8 (V) approaches for facilitating
9 data collection, analysis, and interpre-
10 tation;

11 (VI) procedures to ensure repeti-
12 tion of experiments, as needed;

13 (VII) support for timely presen-
14 tation of the peer-reviewed results of
15 the research;

16 (VIII) defined metrics for the
17 success of each study; and

18 (IX) how these activities enable
19 the Human Exploration Roadmap de-
20 scribed in section 70504 of title 51,
21 United States Code;

22 (ii) instrumentation required to sup-
23 port the measurements and analysis of the
24 research to be carried out under the stra-
25 tegic plan;

1 (iii) the capabilities needed to support
2 direct, real-time communications between
3 astronauts working on research experi-
4 ments onboard the International Space
5 Station and the principal investigator on
6 the ground;

7 (iv) a process for involving the exter-
8 nal user community in research planning,
9 including planning for relevant flight hard-
10 ware and instrumentation, and for utiliza-
11 tion of the International Space Station,
12 free flyers, or other research platforms;

13 (v) the acquisition strategy the Ad-
14 ministration plans to use to acquire any
15 new support capabilities which are not
16 operational on the International Space Sta-
17 tion as of the date of enactment of this
18 Act, and the criteria the Administration
19 will apply if less than full and open com-
20 petition is selected; and

21 (vi) defined metrics for success of the
22 research plan.

23 (3) REPORT.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
25 after the date of enactment of this Act, the

1 Comptroller General of the United States shall
2 transmit to the Committee on Science, Space,
3 and Technology of the House of Representa-
4 tives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
5 and Transportation of the Senate a report on
6 the progress of the organization chosen for the
7 management of the International Space Station
8 National Laboratory as directed in section 504
9 of the National Aeronautics and Space Admin-
10 istration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C.
11 18354).

12 (B) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.—The re-
13 port shall assess the management, organization,
14 and performance of such organization and shall
15 include a review of the status of each of the
16 seven required activities listed in section 504(c)
17 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 18354(c)).

18 **SEC. 212. BARRIERS IMPEDING ENHANCED UTILIZATION OF**
19 **THE ISS'S NATIONAL LABORATORY BY COM-**
20 **MERCIAL COMPANIES.**

21 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
22 gress that—

23 (1) enhanced utilization of the International
24 Space Station's National Laboratory requires a full
25 understanding of the barriers impeding such utiliza-

1 tion and actions needed to be taken to remove or
2 mitigate them to the maximum extent practicable;
3 and

4 (2) doing so will allow the Administration to en-
5 courage commercial companies to invest in micro-
6 gravity research using National Laboratory research
7 facilities.

8 (b) ASSESSMENT.—The Administrator shall enter
9 into an arrangement with the National Academies for an
10 assessment to—

11 (1) identify barriers impeding enhanced utiliza-
12 tion of the International Space Station’s National
13 Laboratory;

14 (2) recommend ways to encourage commercial
15 companies to make greater use of the International
16 Space Station’s National Laboratory, including cor-
17 porate investment in microgravity research; and

18 (3) identify any legislative changes that may be
19 required.

20 (c) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
21 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
22 transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-
23 nology of the House of Representatives and the Committee
24 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate
25 the results of the assessment described in subsection (b).

1 **SEC. 213. UTILIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL SPACE STA-**
2 **TION FOR SCIENCE MISSIONS.**

3 The Administrator shall utilize the International
4 Space Station for Science Mission Directorate missions in
5 low-Earth orbit wherever it is practical and cost effective
6 to do so.

7 **SEC. 214. INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION CARGO RESUP-**
8 **PLY SERVICES LESSONS LEARNED.**

9 Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment
10 of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to
11 the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the
12 House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
13 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate that—

14 (1) identifies the lessons learned to date from
15 the Commercial Resupply Services contract;

16 (2) indicates whether changes are needed to the
17 manner in which the Administration procures and
18 manages similar services upon the expiration of the
19 existing Commercial Resupply Services contract; and

20 (3) identifies any lessons learned from the Com-
21 mercial Resupply Services contract that should be
22 applied to the procurement and management of com-
23 mercially provided crew transfer services to and
24 from the International Space Station.

1 **SEC. 215. COMMERCIAL CREW PROGRAM.**

2 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
3 gress that once developed and certified to meet the Admin-
4 istration’s safety and reliability requirements, United
5 States commercially provided crew transportation systems
6 offer the potential of serving as the primary means of
7 transporting American astronauts and international part-
8 ner astronauts to and from the International Space Sta-
9 tion and serving as International Space Station emergency
10 crew rescue vehicles. At the same time, the budgetary as-
11 sumptions used by the Administration in its planning for
12 the Commercial Crew Program have consistently assumed
13 significantly higher funding levels than have been author-
14 ized and appropriated by Congress. It is the sense of Con-
15 gress that credibility in the Administration’s budgetary es-
16 timates for the Commercial Crew Program can be en-
17 hanced by an independently developed cost estimate. Such
18 credibility in budgetary estimates is an important factor
19 in understanding program risk.

20 (b) OBJECTIVE.—The objective of the Administra-
21 tion’s Commercial Crew Program shall be to assist the de-
22 velopment of at least one crew transportation system to
23 carry Administration astronauts safely, reliably, and
24 affordably to and from the International Space Station
25 and to serve as an emergency crew rescue vehicle as soon
26 as practicable within the funding levels authorized. The

1 Administration shall not use any considerations beyond
2 this objective in the overall acquisition strategy.

3 (c) SAFETY.—Consistent with the findings and rec-
4 ommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation
5 Board, the Administration shall ensure that safety and the
6 minimization of the probability of loss of crew are the
7 highest priorities of the commercial crew transportation
8 program.

9 (d) COST MINIMIZATION.—The Administrator shall
10 strive through the competitive selection process to mini-
11 mize the life cycle cost to the Administration through the
12 planned period of commercially provided crew transpor-
13 tation services.

14 (e) TRANSPARENCY.—Transparency is the corner-
15 stone of ensuring a safe and reliable commercial crew
16 transportation service to the International Space Station.
17 The Administrator shall, to the greatest extent prac-
18 ticable, ensure that every commercial crew transportation
19 services provider has provided evidence-based support for
20 their costs and schedule.

21 (f) INDEPENDENT COST AND SCHEDULE ESTI-
22 MATE.—

23 (1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 30 days
24 after the Federal Acquisition Regulation-based con-
25 tract for the Commercial Crew Transportation Capa-

1 bility Contract is awarded, the Administrator shall
2 arrange for the initiation of an Independent Cost
3 and Schedule Estimate for—

4 (A) all activities associated with the devel-
5 opment, test, demonstration, and certification
6 of commercial crew transportation systems;

7 (B) transportation and rescue services re-
8 quired by the Administration for International
9 Space Station operations through calendar year
10 2020 or later if Administration requirements so
11 dictate; and

12 (C) the estimated date of operational read-
13 iness for the program each assumption listed in
14 paragraph (2) of this subsection.

15 (2) ASSUMPTIONS.—The Independent Cost and
16 Schedule Estimate shall provide an estimate for each
17 of the following scenarios:

18 (A) An appropriation of \$600,000,000 over
19 the next 3 fiscal years.

20 (B) An appropriation of \$700,000,000
21 over the next 3 fiscal years.

22 (C) An appropriation of \$800,000,000 over
23 the next 3 fiscal years.

24 (D) The funding level assumptions over
25 the next 3 fiscal years that are included as part

1 of commercial crew transportation capability
2 contract awards.

3 (3) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 180 days
4 after initiation of the Independent Cost and Sched-
5 ule Estimate under paragraph (1), the Adminis-
6 trator shall transmit the results of the Independent
7 Cost and Schedule Estimate to the Committee on
8 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of
9 Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
10 Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

11 (g) IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES.—

12 (1) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the
13 completion of the Independent Cost and Schedule
14 Estimate under subsection (f), the Administrator
15 shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space,
16 and Technology of the House of Representatives and
17 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
18 portation of the Senate a report containing four dis-
19 tinct implementation strategies based on such Inde-
20 pendent Cost and Schedule Estimate for the final
21 stages of the commercial crew program.

22 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—These options shall in-
23 clude—

1 (A) a strategy that assumes an appropria-
2 tion of \$600,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal
3 years;

4 (B) a strategy that assumes an appropria-
5 tion of \$700,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal
6 years;

7 (C) a strategy that assumes an appropria-
8 tion of \$800,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal
9 years; and

10 (D) a strategy that has yet to be consid-
11 ered previously in any budget submission but
12 that the Administration believes could ensure
13 the flight readiness date of 2017 for at least
14 one provider.

15 (3) INCLUSIONS.—Each strategy shall include
16 the contracting instruments the Administration will
17 employ to acquire the services in each phase of de-
18 velopment or acquisition and the number of commer-
19 cial providers the Administration will include in the
20 program.

21 **SEC. 216. SPACE COMMUNICATIONS.**

22 (a) PLAN.—The Administrator shall develop a plan,
23 in consultation with relevant Federal agencies, for updat-
24 ing the Administration’s space communications and navi-
25 gation architecture for low-Earth orbital and deep space

1 operations so that it is capable of meeting the Administra-
2 tion's communications needs over the next 20 years. The
3 plan shall include lifecycle cost estimates, milestones, esti-
4 mated performance capabilities, and 5-year funding pro-
5 files. The plan shall also include an estimate of the
6 amounts of any reimbursements the Administration is
7 likely to receive from other Federal agencies during the
8 expected life of the upgrades described in the plan. At a
9 minimum, the plan shall include a description of the fol-
10 lowing:

11 (1) Steps to sustain the existing space commu-
12 nications and navigation network and infrastructure
13 and priorities for how resources will be applied and
14 cost estimates for the maintenance of existing space
15 communications network capabilities.

16 (2) Upgrades needed to support space commu-
17 nications and navigation network and infrastructure
18 requirements, including cost estimates and schedules
19 and an assessment of the impact on missions if re-
20 sources are not secured at the level needed.

21 (3) Projected space communications and navi-
22 gation network requirements for the next 20 years,
23 including those in support of human space explo-
24 ration missions.

1 (4) Projected Tracking and Data Relay Sat-
2 ellite System requirements for the next 20 years, in-
3 cluding those in support of other relevant Federal
4 agencies, and cost and schedule estimates to main-
5 tain and upgrade the Tracking and Data Relay Sat-
6 ellite System to meet projected requirements.

7 (5) Steps the Administration is taking to meet
8 future space communications requirements after all
9 Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System third-gen-
10 eration communications satellites are operational.

11 (6) Steps the Administration is taking to miti-
12 gate threats to electromagnetic spectrum use.

13 (b) SCHEDULE.—The Administrator shall transmit
14 the plan developed under this section to the Committee
15 on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
17 and Transportation of the Senate not later than 1 year
18 after the date of enactment of this Act.

19 **TITLE III—SCIENCE**

20 **Subtitle A—General**

21 **SEC. 301. SCIENCE PORTFOLIO.**

22 (a) BALANCED AND ADEQUATELY FUNDED ACTIVI-
23 TIES.—Section 803 of the National Aeronautics and Space
24 Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (124 Stat.
25 2832) is amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 803. OVERALL SCIENCE PORTFOLIO—SENSE OF THE**
2 **CONGRESS.**

3 “Congress reaffirms its sense, expressed in the Na-
4 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration Authoriza-
5 tion Act of 2010, that a balanced and adequately funded
6 set of activities, consisting of research and analysis grants
7 programs, technology development, small, medium, and
8 large space missions, and suborbital research activities,
9 contributes to a robust and productive science program
10 and serves as a catalyst for innovation and discovery.”.

11 (b) DECADAL SURVEYS.—In proposing the funding
12 of programs and activities for the Administration for each
13 fiscal year, the Administrator shall, to the greatest extent
14 practicable, follow guidance provided in the current
15 decadal surveys from the National Academies’ Space
16 Studies Board.

17 **SEC. 302. RADIOISOTOPE POWER SYSTEMS.**

18 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
19 gress that conducting deep space exploration requires ra-
20 dioisotope power systems, and establishing continuity in
21 the production of the material needed to power these sys-
22 tems is paramount to the success of these future deep
23 space missions. It is further the sense of Congress that
24 Federal agencies supporting the Administration through
25 the production of such material should do so in a cost ef-

1 fective manner so as not to impose excessive reimburse-
2 ment requirements on the Administration.

3 (b) ANALYSIS OF REQUIREMENTS AND RISKS.—The
4 Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy
5 and the Administrator, in consultation with other Federal
6 agencies, shall conduct an analysis of—

7 (1) the requirements of the Administration for
8 radioisotope power system material that is needed to
9 carry out planned, high priority robotic missions in
10 the solar system and other surface exploration activi-
11 ties beyond low-Earth orbit; and

12 (2) the risks to missions of the Administration
13 in meeting those requirements, or any additional re-
14 quirements, due to a lack of adequate radioisotope
15 power system material.

16 (c) CONTENTS OF ANALYSIS.—The analysis con-
17 ducted under subsection (b) shall—

18 (1) detail the Administration’s current pro-
19 jected mission requirements and associated time-
20 frames for radioisotope power system material;

21 (2) explain the assumptions used to determine
22 the Administration’s requirements for the material,
23 including—

24 (A) the planned use of advanced thermal
25 conversion technology such as advanced

1 thermocouples and Stirling generators and con-
2 verters; and

3 (B) the risks and implications of, and con-
4 tingencies for, any delays or unanticipated tech-
5 nical challenges affecting or related to the Ad-
6 ministration's mission plans for the anticipated
7 use of advanced thermal conversion technology;

8 (3) assess the risk to the Administration's pro-
9 grams of any potential delays in achieving the sched-
10 ule and milestones for planned domestic production
11 of radioisotope power system material;

12 (4) outline a process for meeting any additional
13 Administration requirements for the material;

14 (5) estimate the incremental costs required to
15 increase the amount of material produced each year,
16 if such an increase is needed to support additional
17 Administration requirements for the material;

18 (6) detail how the Administration and other
19 Federal agencies will manage, operate, and fund
20 production facilities and the design and development
21 of all radioisotope power systems used by the Ad-
22 ministration and other Federal agencies as nec-
23 essary;

24 (7) specify the steps the Administration will
25 take, in consultation with the Department of En-

1 ergy, to preserve the infrastructure and workforce
 2 necessary for production of radioisotope power sys-
 3 tems and ensure that its reimbursements to the De-
 4 partment of Energy associated with such preserva-
 5 tion are equitable and justified; and

6 (8) detail how the Administration has imple-
 7 mented or rejected the recommendations from the
 8 National Research Council’s 2009 report titled “Ra-
 9 dioisotope Power Systems: An Imperative for Main-
 10 taining U.S. Leadership in Space Exploration”.

11 (d) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 180 days after
 12 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
 13 transmit the results of the analysis to the Committee on
 14 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
 15 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
 16 and Transportation of the Senate.

17 **SEC. 303. CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF POLICY AND**
 18 **PURPOSE.**

19 Section 20102(d) of title 51, United States Code, is
 20 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
 21 graph:

22 “(10) The direction of the unique competence
 23 of the Administration to the search for life’s origin,
 24 evolution, distribution, and future in the Universe.
 25 In carrying out this objective, the Administration

1 may use any practicable ground-based, airborne, or
2 space-based technical means and spectra of electro-
3 magnetic radiation.”.

4 **SEC. 304. UNIVERSITY CLASS SCIENCE MISSIONS.**

5 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
6 gress that principal investigator-led small orbital science
7 missions, including CubeSat class, University Explorer
8 (UNEX) class, Small Explorer (SMEX) class, and Ven-
9 ture class, offer valuable opportunities to advance science
10 at low cost, train the next generation of scientists and en-
11 gineers, and enable participants in the program to acquire
12 skills in systems engineering and systems integration that
13 are critical to maintaining the Nation’s leadership in space
14 and to enhancing the United States innovation and com-
15 petitiveness abroad.

16 (b) REVIEW OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR-LED
17 SMALL ORBITAL SCIENCE MISSIONS.—The Administrator
18 shall conduct a review of the science missions described
19 in subsection (a). The review shall include—

20 (1) the status, capability, and availability of ex-
21 isting small orbital science mission programs and
22 the extent to which each program enables the par-
23 ticipation of university scientists and students;

24 (2) the opportunities such mission programs
25 provide for scientific research;

1 (3) the opportunities such mission programs
2 provide for training and education, including sci-
3 entific and engineering workforce development, in-
4 cluding for the Administration’s scientific and engi-
5 neering workforce; and

6 (4) the extent to which commercial applications
7 such as hosted payloads, free flyers, and data buys
8 could provide measurable benefits for such mission
9 programs, while preserving the principle of inde-
10 pendent peer review as the basis for mission selec-
11 tion.

12 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date
13 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit
14 to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of
15 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
16 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report
17 on the review required under subsection (b) and on rec-
18 ommendations to enhance principal investigator-led small
19 orbital science missions conducted by the Administration
20 in accordance with the results of the review required by
21 subsection (b).

22 **SEC. 305. ASSESSMENT OF SCIENCE MISSION EXTENSIONS.**

23 Section 30504 of title 51, United States Code, is
24 amended to read as follows:

1 **“§ 30504. Assessment of science mission extensions**

2 “(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Administrator shall carry
3 out biennial reviews within each of the Science divisions
4 to assess the cost and benefits of extending the date of
5 the termination of data collection for those missions that
6 exceed their planned missions’ lifetime. The assessment
7 shall take into consideration how extending missions im-
8 pacts the start of future missions.

9 “(b) CONSULTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF PO-
10 TENTIAL BENEFITS OF INSTRUMENTS ON MISSIONS.—
11 When deciding whether to extend a mission that has an
12 operational component, the Administrator shall consult
13 with any affected Federal agency and shall take into ac-
14 count the potential benefits of instruments on missions
15 that are beyond their planned mission lifetime.

16 “(c) REPORT.—The Administrator shall transmit to
17 the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the
18 House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
19 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, at the
20 same time as the submission to Congress of the Adminis-
21 tration’s annual budget request for each fiscal year, a re-
22 port detailing any assessment required by subsection (a)
23 that was carried out during the previous year.”.

1 **Subtitle B—Astrophysics**

2 **SEC. 311. DECADAL CADENCE.**

3 In carrying out section 301(b), the Administrator
4 shall seek to ensure to the extent practicable a steady ca-
5 dence of large, medium, and small astrophysics missions.

6 **SEC. 312. EXTRASOLAR PLANET EXPLORATION STRATEGY.**

7 (a) STRATEGY.—The Administrator shall enter into
8 an arrangement with the National Academies to develop
9 a science strategy for the study and exploration of
10 extrasolar planets, including the use of the Transiting
11 Exoplanet Survey Satellite, the James Webb Space Tele-
12 scope, a potential Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope
13 mission, or any other telescope, spacecraft, or instrument
14 as appropriate. Such strategy shall—

15 (1) outline key scientific questions;

16 (2) identify the most promising research in the
17 field;

18 (3) indicate the extent to which the mission pri-
19 orities in existing decadal surveys address the key
20 extrasolar planet research goals;

21 (4) identify opportunities for coordination with
22 international partners, commercial partners, and
23 other not-for-profit partners; and

24 (5) make recommendations on the above as ap-
25 propriate.

1 (b) USE OF STRATEGY.—The Administrator shall use
2 the strategy to—

3 (1) inform roadmaps, strategic plans, and other
4 activities of the Administration as they relate to
5 extrasolar planet research and exploration; and

6 (2) provide a foundation for future activities
7 and initiatives.

8 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18
9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Na-
10 tional Academies shall transmit a report to the Adminis-
11 trator, and to the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-
12 nology of the House of Representatives and the Committee
13 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate,
14 containing the strategy developed under subsection (a).

15 **SEC. 313. JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE.**

16 It is the sense of Congress that—

17 (1) the James Webb Space Telescope will revo-
18 lutionize our understanding of star and planet for-
19 mation and how galaxies evolved, and advance the
20 search for the origins of the universe;

21 (2) the James Webb Space Telescope will en-
22 able American scientists to maintain their leadership
23 in astrophysics and other disciplines;

24 (3) the James Webb Space Telescope program
25 is making steady progress towards a launch in 2018;

1 (4) the on-time and on-budget delivery of the
2 James Webb Space Telescope is a high congressional
3 priority; and

4 (5) maintaining this progress will require the
5 Administrator to ensure that integrated testing is
6 appropriately timed and sufficiently comprehensive
7 to enable potential issues to be identified and ad-
8 dressed early enough to be handled within the James
9 Webb Space Telescope's development schedule prior
10 to launch.

11 **SEC. 314. NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE TELESCOPE**
12 **DONATION.**

13 Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment
14 of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to
15 the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the
16 House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
17 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate out-
18 lining the cost of the Administration's potential plan for
19 developing the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope as
20 described in the 2010 National Academies' astronomy and
21 astrophysics decadal survey, including an alternative plan
22 for the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope 2.4, which
23 includes the donated 2.4-meter aperture National Recon-
24 naissance Office telescope. Due to the budget constraints

1 on the Administration’s science programs, this report shall
2 include—

3 (1) an assessment of cost efficient approaches
4 to develop the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope;

5 (2) a comparison to the development of mission
6 concepts that exclude the utilization of the donated
7 asset;

8 (3) an assessment of how the Administration’s
9 existing science missions will be affected by the utili-
10 zation of the donated asset described in this section;
11 and

12 (4) a description of the cost associated with
13 storing and maintaining the donated asset.

14 **SEC. 315. WIDE-FIELD INFRARED SURVEY TELESCOPE.**

15 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
16 gress that the Administrator, to the extent practicable,
17 should make progress on the technologies and capabilities
18 needed to position the Administration to meet the objec-
19 tives of the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope mission,
20 as outlined in the 2010 National Academies’ astronomy
21 and astrophysics decadal survey, in a way that maximizes
22 the scientific productivity of meeting those objectives for
23 the resources invested. It is further the sense of Congress
24 that the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope mission

1 has the potential to enable scientific discoveries that will
2 transform our understanding of the universe.

3 (b) CONTINUITY OF DEVELOPMENT.—The Adminis-
4 trator shall ensure that the concept definition and pre-
5 formulation activities of a Wide-Field Infrared Survey Tel-
6 escope mission continue while the James Webb Space Tel-
7 escope is being completed.

8 **SEC. 316. STRATOSPHERIC OBSERVATORY FOR INFRARED**
9 **ASTRONOMY.**

10 The Administrator shall not use any funding appro-
11 priated to the Administration for fiscal year 2015 for the
12 shutdown of the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared
13 Astronomy or for the preparation therefor.

14 **Subtitle C—Planetary Science**

15 **SEC. 321. DECADAL CADENCE.**

16 In carrying out section 301(b), the Administrator
17 shall seek to ensure, to the greatest extent practicable,
18 that the Administration carries out a balanced set of plan-
19 etary science programs in accordance with the priorities
20 established in the most recent decadal survey for planetary
21 science. Such programs shall include, at a minimum—

22 (1) a Discovery-class mission at least once every
23 24 months;

24 (2) a New Frontiers-class mission at least once
25 every 60 months; and

1 (3) at least one Flagship-class mission per
2 decadal survey period, including a Europa mission
3 with a goal of launching by 2021.

4 **SEC. 322. NEAR-EARTH OBJECTS.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
6 ings:

7 (1) Near-Earth objects pose a serious and cred-
8 ible threat to humankind, as many scientists believe
9 that a major asteroid or comet was responsible for
10 the mass extinction of the majority of the Earth's
11 species, including the dinosaurs, approximately 65
12 million years ago.

13 (2) Similar objects have struck the Earth or
14 passed through the Earth's atmosphere several times
15 in the Earth's history and pose a similar threat in
16 the future.

17 (3) Several such near-Earth objects have only
18 been discovered within days of the objects' closest
19 approach to Earth, and recent discoveries of such
20 large objects indicate that many large near-Earth
21 objects remain to be discovered.

22 (4) The efforts undertaken by the Administra-
23 tion for detecting and characterizing the hazards of
24 near-Earth objects should continue to seek to fully

1 determine the threat posed by such objects to cause
2 widespread destruction and loss of life.

3 (b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the
4 term “near-Earth object” means an asteroid or comet with
5 a perihelion distance of less than 1.3 Astronomical Units
6 from the Sun.

7 (c) NEAR-EARTH OBJECT SURVEY.—The Adminis-
8 trator shall continue to detect, track, catalogue, and char-
9 acterize the physical characteristics of near-Earth objects
10 equal to or greater than 140 meters in diameter in order
11 to assess the threat of such near-Earth objects to the
12 Earth, pursuant to the George E. Brown, Jr. Near-Earth
13 Object Survey Act (42 U.S.C. 16691). It shall be the goal
14 of the Survey program to achieve 90 percent completion
15 of its near-Earth object catalogue (based on statistically
16 predicted populations of near-Earth objects) by 2020.

17 (d) WARNING AND MITIGATION OF POTENTIAL HAZ-
18 ARDS OF NEAR-EARTH OBJECTS.—Congress reaffirms
19 the policy set forth in section 20102(g) of title 51, United
20 States Code (relating to detecting, tracking, cataloguing,
21 and characterizing asteroids and comets).

22 (e) PROGRAM REPORT.—The Director of the Office
23 of Science and Technology Policy and the Administrator
24 shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and
25 Technology of the House of Representatives and the Com-

1 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
2 Senate, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
3 of this Act, an initial report that provides—

4 (1) recommendations for carrying out the Sur-
5 vey program and an associated proposed budget;

6 (2) analysis of possible options that the Admin-
7 istration could employ to divert an object on a likely
8 collision course with Earth; and

9 (3) a description of the status of efforts to co-
10 ordinate and cooperate with other countries to dis-
11 cover hazardous asteroids and comets, plan a mitiga-
12 tion strategy, and implement that strategy in the
13 event of the discovery of an object on a likely colli-
14 sion course with Earth.

15 (f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Subsequent to the initial re-
16 port the Administrator shall annually transmit to the
17 Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the
18 House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
19 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report
20 that provides—

21 (1) a summary of all activities carried out pur-
22 suant to subsection (c) since the date of enactment
23 of this Act, including the progress toward achieving
24 90 percent completion of the survey described in
25 subsection (c); and

1 (2) a summary of expenditures for all activities
2 carried out pursuant to subsection (c) since the date
3 of enactment of this Act.

4 (g) STUDY.—The Administrator, in collaboration
5 with other relevant Federal agencies, shall carry out a
6 technical and scientific assessment of the capabilities and
7 resources to—

8 (1) accelerate the survey described in subsection
9 (c); and

10 (2) expand the Administration’s Near-Earth
11 Object Program to include the detection, tracking,
12 cataloguing, and characterization of potentially haz-
13 ardous near-Earth objects less than 140 meters in
14 diameter.

15 (h) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 270 days after
16 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
17 transmit the results of the assessment carried out under
18 subsection (g) to the Committee on Science, Space, and
19 Technology of the House of Representatives and the Com-
20 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
21 Senate.

22 **SEC. 323. NEAR-EARTH OBJECTS PUBLIC-PRIVATE PART-**
23 **NEERSHIPS.**

24 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
25 gress that the Administration should seek to leverage the

1 capabilities of the private sector and philanthropic organi-
2 zations to the maximum extent practicable in carrying out
3 the Near-Earth Object Survey program in order to meet
4 the goal of the Survey program.

5 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
6 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit
7 to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of
8 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
9 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report
10 describing how the Administration can expand collabo-
11 rative partnerships to detect, track, catalogue, and cat-
12 egorize near-Earth objects.

13 **SEC. 324. RESEARCH ON NEAR-EARTH OBJECT TSUNAMI**
14 **EFFECTS.**

15 (a) REPORT ON POTENTIAL TSUNAMI EFFECTS
16 FROM NEAR-EARTH OBJECT IMPACT.—The Adminis-
17 trator, in collaboration with the Administrator of the Na-
18 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other
19 relevant agencies, shall prepare a report identifying and
20 describing existing research activities and further research
21 objectives that would increase our understanding of the
22 nature of the effects of potential tsunamis that could occur
23 if a near-Earth object were to impact an ocean of Earth.

24 (b) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 180 days after
25 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall

1 transmit the report required and prepared under sub-
2 section (a) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-
3 nology of the House of Representatives and the Committee
4 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

5 **SEC. 325. ASTROBIOLOGY STRATEGY.**

6 (a) STRATEGY.—The Administrator shall enter into
7 an arrangement with the National Academies to develop
8 a science strategy for astrobiology that would outline key
9 scientific questions, identify the most promising research
10 in the field, and indicate the extent to which the mission
11 priorities in existing decadal surveys address the search
12 for life’s origin, evolution, distribution, and future in the
13 Universe. The strategy shall include recommendations for
14 coordination with international partners.

15 (b) USE OF STRATEGY.—The Administrator shall use
16 the strategy developed under subsection (a) in planning
17 and funding research and other activities and initiatives
18 in the field of astrobiology.

19 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18
20 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Na-
21 tional Academies shall transmit a report to the Adminis-
22 trator, and to the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-
23 nology of the House of Representatives and the Committee
24 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate,
25 containing the strategy developed under subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 326. ASTROBIOLOGY PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.**

2 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
3 of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Com-
4 mittee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House
5 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
6 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report de-
7 scribing how the Administration can expand collaborative
8 partnerships to study life's origin, evolution, distribution,
9 and future in the Universe.

10 **SEC. 327. ASSESSMENT OF MARS ARCHITECTURE.**

11 (a) ASSESSMENT.—The Administrator shall enter
12 into an arrangement with the National Academies to as-
13 sess—

14 (1) the Administration's revised post-2016
15 Mars exploration architecture and its responsiveness
16 to the strategies, priorities, and guidelines put for-
17 ward by the National Academies' planetary science
18 decadal surveys and other relevant National Acad-
19 emies Mars-related reports;

20 (2) the long-term goals of the Administration's
21 Mars Exploration Program and such program's abil-
22 ity to optimize the science return, given the current
23 fiscal posture of the program;

24 (3) the Mars architecture's relationship to
25 Mars-related activities to be undertaken by agencies
26 and organizations outside of the United States; and

1 (4) the extent to which the Mars architecture
2 represents a reasonably balanced mission portfolio.

3 (b) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 18 months after
4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
5 transmit the results of the assessment to the Committee
6 on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
7 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
8 and Transportation of the Senate.

9 **Subtitle D—Heliophysics**

10 **SEC. 331. DECADAL CADENCE.**

11 In carrying out section 301(b), the Administrator
12 shall seek to ensure to the extent practicable a steady ca-
13 dence of large, medium, and small heliophysics missions.

14 **SEC. 332. REVIEW OF SPACE WEATHER.**

15 (a) REVIEW.—The Director of the Office of Science
16 and Technology Policy, in consultation with the Adminis-
17 trator, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and At-
18 mospheric Administration, the Director of the National
19 Science Foundation, and heads of other relevant Federal
20 agencies, shall enter into an arrangement with the Na-
21 tional Academies to provide a comprehensive study that
22 reviews current and planned ground-based and space-
23 based space weather monitoring requirements and capa-
24 bilities, identifies gaps, and identifies options for a robust
25 and resilient capability. The study shall inform the process

1 of identifying national needs for future space weather
2 monitoring, forecasts, and mitigation. The National Acad-
3 emies shall give consideration to international and private
4 sector efforts and collaboration that could potentially con-
5 tribute to national space weather needs. The study shall
6 also review the current state of research capabilities in ob-
7 serving, modeling, and prediction and provide rec-
8 ommendations to ensure future advancement of predictive
9 capability.

10 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 14
11 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Na-
12 tional Academies shall transmit a report containing the
13 results of the study provided under subsection (a) to the
14 Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy,
15 and to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
16 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
17 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

18 **Subtitle E—Earth Science**

19 **SEC. 341. GOAL.**

20 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
21 gress that the Administration is being asked to undertake
22 important Earth science activities in an environment of
23 increasingly constrained fiscal resources, and that any
24 transfer of additional responsibilities to the Administra-
25 tion, such as climate instrument development and meas-

1 urements that are currently part of the portfolio of the
2 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, should
3 be accompanied by the provision of additional resources
4 to allow the Administration to carry out the increased re-
5 sponsibilities without adversely impacting its implementa-
6 tion of its existing Earth science programs and priorities.

7 (b) GENERAL.—The Administrator shall continue to
8 carry out a balanced Earth science program that includes
9 Earth science research, Earth systematic missions, com-
10 petitive Venture class missions, other missions and data
11 analysis, mission operations, technology development, and
12 applied sciences, consistent with the recommendations and
13 priorities established in the National Academies’ Earth
14 Science Decadal Survey.

15 (c) COLLABORATION.—The Administrator shall col-
16 laborate with other Federal agencies, including the Na-
17 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, non-gov-
18 ernment entities, and international partners, as appro-
19 priate, in carrying out the Administration’s Earth science
20 program. The Administration shall continue to develop
21 first-of-a-kind instruments that, once proved, can be
22 transitioned to other agencies for operations.

23 (d) REIMBURSEMENT.—Whenever responsibilities for
24 the development of sensors or for measurements are trans-
25 ferred to the Administration from another agency, the Ad-

1 ministration shall seek, to the extent possible, to be reim-
2 bursed for the assumption of such responsibilities.

3 **SEC. 342. DECADAL CADENCE.**

4 In carrying out section 341(b), the Administrator
5 shall seek to ensure to the extent practicable a steady ca-
6 dence of large, medium, and small Earth science missions.

7 **SEC. 343. VENTURE CLASS MISSIONS.**

8 It is the sense of Congress that the Administration's
9 Venture class missions provide opportunities for innova-
10 tion in the Earth science program, offer low-cost ap-
11 proaches for high-quality competitive science investiga-
12 tions, enable frequent flight opportunities to engage the
13 Earth science and applications community, and serve as
14 a training ground for students and young scientists. It is
15 further the sense of Congress that the Administration
16 should seek to increase the number of Venture class
17 projects to the extent practicable as part of a balanced
18 Earth science program.

19 **SEC. 344. ASSESSMENT.**

20 The Administrator shall carry out a scientific assess-
21 ment of the Administration's Earth science global datasets
22 for the purpose of identifying those datasets that are use-
23 ful for understanding regional changes and variability, and
24 for informing applied science research. The Administrator
25 shall complete and transmit the assessment to the Com-

1 mittee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House
2 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
3 Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than
4 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

5 **TITLE IV—AERONAUTICS**

6 **SEC. 401. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

8 (1) a robust aeronautics research portfolio will
9 help maintain the United States status as a leader
10 in aviation, enhance the competitiveness of the
11 United States in the world economy and improve the
12 quality of life of all citizens;

13 (2) aeronautics research is essential to the Ad-
14 ministration’s mission, continues to be an important
15 core element of the Administration’s mission and
16 should be supported;

17 (3) the Administrator should coordinate and
18 consult with relevant Federal agencies and the pri-
19 vate sector to minimize duplication and leverage re-
20 sources; and

21 (4) carrying aeronautics research to a level of
22 maturity that allows the Administration’s research
23 results to be transitioned to the users, whether pri-
24 vate or public sector, is critical to their eventual
25 adoption.

1 **SEC. 402. AERONAUTICS RESEARCH GOALS.**

2 The Administrator shall ensure that the Administra-
3 tion maintains a strong aeronautics research portfolio
4 ranging from fundamental research through integrated
5 systems research with specific research goals, including
6 the following:

7 (1) ENHANCE AIRSPACE OPERATIONS AND
8 SAFETY.—The Administration’s Aeronautics Re-
9 search Mission Directorate shall address research
10 needs of the Next Generation Air Transportation
11 System and identify critical gaps in technology
12 which must be bridged to enable the implementation
13 of the Next Generation Air Transportation System
14 so that safety and productivity improvements can be
15 achieved as soon as possible.

16 (2) IMPROVE AIR VEHICLE PERFORMANCE.—
17 The Administration’s Aeronautics Research Mission
18 Directorate shall conduct research to improve air-
19 craft performance and minimize environmental im-
20 pacts. The Associate Administrator for the Aero-
21 nautics Research Mission Directorate shall consider
22 and pursue concepts to reduce noise, emissions, and
23 fuel consumption while maintaining high safety
24 standards, and shall conduct research related to the
25 impact of alternative fuels on the safety, reliability
26 and maintainability of current and new air vehicles.

1 (3) STRENGTHEN AVIATION SAFETY.—The Ad-
2 ministration’s Aeronautics Research Mission Direc-
3 torate shall proactively address safety challenges as-
4 sociated with current and new air vehicles and with
5 operations in the Nation’s current and future air
6 transportation system.

7 (4) DEMONSTRATE CONCEPTS AT THE SYSTEM
8 LEVEL.—The Administration’s Aeronautics Research
9 Mission Directorate shall mature the most promising
10 technologies to the point at which they can be dem-
11 onstrated in a relevant environment and shall inte-
12 grate individual components and technologies as ap-
13 propriate to ensure that they perform in an inte-
14 grated manner as well as they do when operated in-
15 dividually.

16 **SEC. 403. UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS RESEARCH AND DE-**
17 **VELOPMENT.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consulta-
19 tion with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Ad-
20 ministration and other Federal agencies, shall carry out
21 research and technological development to facilitate the
22 safe integration of unmanned aerial systems into the Na-
23 tional Airspace System, including—

24 (1) positioning and navigation systems;

25 (2) sense and avoid capabilities;

- 1 (3) secure data and communication links;
- 2 (4) flight recovery systems; and
- 3 (5) human systems integration.

4 (b) ROADMAP.—The Administrator shall update a
5 roadmap for unmanned aerial systems research and devel-
6 opment and transmit this roadmap to the Committee on
7 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
8 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
9 and Transportation of the Senate not later than 180 days
10 after the date of enactment of this Act.

11 (c) COOPERATIVE UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE AC-
12 TIVITIES.—Section 31504 of title 51, United States Code,
13 is amended by inserting “Operational flight data derived
14 from these cooperative agreements shall be made available,
15 in appropriate and usable formats, to the Administration
16 and the Federal Aviation Administration for the develop-
17 ment of regulatory standards.” after “in remote areas.”.

18 **SEC. 404. RESEARCH PROGRAM ON COMPOSITE MATERIALS**

19 **USED IN AERONAUTICS.**

20 (a) PURPOSE OF RESEARCH.—The Administrator
21 shall continue the Administration’s cooperative research
22 program with industry to identify and demonstrate more
23 effective and safe ways of developing, manufacturing, and
24 maintaining composite materials for use in airframes, sub-
25 systems, and propulsion components.

1 (b) EXPOSURE OF RESEARCH TO NEXT GENERATION
2 OF ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS.—To the extent prac-
3 ticable, the Administration’s cooperative research program
4 with industry on composite materials shall provide timely
5 access to that research to the next generation of engineers
6 and technicians at universities, community colleges, and
7 vocational schools, thereby helping to develop a workforce
8 ready to take on the development, manufacture, and main-
9 tenance of components reliant on advanced composite ma-
10 terials.

11 (c) CONSULTATION.—The Administrator, in over-
12 seeing the Administration’s work on composite materials,
13 shall consult with relevant Federal agencies and partners
14 in industry to accelerate safe development and certifi-
15 cation processes for new composite materials and design
16 methods while maintaining rigorous inspection of new
17 composite materials.

18 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
19 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit
20 a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-
21 nology of the House of Representatives and the Committee
22 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate
23 detailing the Administration’s work on new composite ma-
24 terials and the coordination efforts among Federal agen-
25 cies and industry partners.

1 **SEC. 405. HYPERSONIC RESEARCH.**

2 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
3 of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with other
4 Federal agencies, shall develop and transmit to the Com-
5 mittee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House
6 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
7 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a research and
8 development roadmap for hypersonic aircraft research
9 with the objective of exploring hypersonic science and
10 technology using air-breathing propulsion concepts,
11 through a mix of theoretical work, basic and applied re-
12 search, and development of flight research demonstration
13 vehicles. The roadmap shall prescribe appropriate agency
14 contributions, coordination efforts, and technology mile-
15 stones.

16 **SEC. 406. SUPERSONIC RESEARCH.**

17 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

18 (1) the ability to fly commercial aircraft over
19 land at supersonic speeds without adverse impacts
20 on the environment or on local communities could
21 open new global markets and enable new transpor-
22 tation capabilities; and

23 (2) continuing the Administration’s research
24 program is necessary to assess the impact in a rel-
25 evant environment of commercial supersonic flight
26 operations and provide the basis for establishing ap-

1 appropriate sonic boom standards for such flight oper-
2 ations.

3 (b) ROADMAP FOR SUPERSONIC RESEARCH.—Not
4 later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act,
5 the Administrator shall develop and transmit to the Com-
6 mittee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House
7 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
8 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a roadmap that
9 allows for flexible funding profiles for supersonic aero-
10 nautics research and development with the objective of de-
11 veloping and demonstrating, in a relevant environment,
12 airframe and propulsion technologies to minimize the envi-
13 ronmental impact, including noise, of supersonic overland
14 flight in an efficient and economical manner. The roadmap
15 shall include—

16 (1) the baseline research as embodied by the
17 Administration’s existing research on supersonic
18 flight;

19 (2) a list of specific technological, environ-
20 mental, and other challenges that must be overcome
21 to minimize the environmental impact, including
22 noise, of supersonic overland flight;

23 (3) a research plan to address such challenges,
24 as well as a project timeline for accomplishing rel-
25 evant research goals;

1 (4) a plan for coordination with stakeholders,
2 including relevant government agencies and indus-
3 try; and

4 (5) a plan for how the Administration will en-
5 sure that sonic boom research is coordinated as ap-
6 propriate with relevant Federal agencies.

7 **SEC. 407. RESEARCH ON NEXTGEN AIRSPACE MANAGE-**
8 **MENT CONCEPTS AND TOOLS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall, in con-
10 sultation with other Federal agencies, review at least an-
11 nually the alignment and timing of the Administration’s
12 research and development activities in support of the
13 NextGen airspace management modernization initiative,
14 and shall make any necessary adjustments by
15 reprioritizing or retargeting the Administration’s research
16 and development activities in support of the NextGen ini-
17 tiative.

18 (b) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Administrator shall re-
19 port to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
20 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
21 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an-
22 nually regarding the progress of the Administration’s re-
23 search and development activities in support of the
24 NextGen airspace management modernization initiative,
25 including details of technologies transferred to relevant

1 Federal agencies for eventual operation implementation,
2 consultation with other Federal agencies, and any adjust-
3 ments made to research activities.

4 **SEC. 408. ROTORCRAFT RESEARCH.**

5 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
6 of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with other
7 Federal agencies, shall prepare and transmit to the Com-
8 mittee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House
9 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
10 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a roadmap for
11 research relating to rotorcraft and other runway-inde-
12 pendent air vehicles, with the objective of developing and
13 demonstrating improved safety, noise, and environmental
14 impact in a relevant environment. The roadmap shall in-
15 clude specific goals for the research, a timeline for imple-
16 mentation, metrics for success, and guidelines for collabo-
17 ration and coordination with industry and other Federal
18 agencies.

19 **SEC. 409. TRANSFORMATIVE AERONAUTICS RESEARCH.**

20 It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator,
21 in looking strategically into the future and ensuring that
22 the Administration's Center personnel are at the leading
23 edge of aeronautics research, should encourage investiga-
24 tions into the early-stage advancement of new processes,
25 novel concepts, and innovative technologies that have the

1 potential to meet national aeronautics needs. The Admin-
2 istrator shall continue to ensure that awards for the inves-
3 tigation of these concepts and technologies are open for
4 competition among Administration civil servants at its
5 Centers, separate from other awards open only to non-Ad-
6 ministration sources.

7 **SEC. 410. STUDY OF UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP IN AERO-**
8 **NAUTICS RESEARCH.**

9 (a) STUDY.—The Administrator shall enter into an
10 arrangement with the National Academies for a study to
11 benchmark the position of the United States in civil aero-
12 nautics research compared to the rest of the world. The
13 study shall—

14 (1) seek to define metrics by which relative
15 leadership in civil aeronautics research can be deter-
16 mined;

17 (2) ascertain how the United States compares
18 to other countries in the field of civil aeronautics re-
19 search and any relevant trends; and

20 (3) provide recommendations on what can be
21 done to regain or retain global leadership, includ-
22 ing—

23 (A) identifying research areas where
24 United States expertise has been or is at risk
25 of being overtaken;

1 (B) defining appropriate roles for the Ad-
2 ministration;

3 (C) identifying public-private partnerships
4 that could be formed; and

5 (D) estimating the impact on the Adminis-
6 tration's budget should such recommendations
7 be implemented.

8 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall pro-
10 vide the results of the study to the Committee on Science,
11 Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives
12 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
13 tation of the Senate.

14 **TITLE V—SPACE TECHNOLOGY**

15 **SEC. 501. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

16 It is the sense of Congress that space technology is
17 critical to—

18 (1) enabling a new class of Administration mis-
19 sions beyond low-Earth orbit;

20 (2) developing technologies and capabilities that
21 will make the Administration's missions more afford-
22 able and more reliable; and

23 (3) improving technological capabilities and pro-
24 moting innovation for the Administration and the
25 Nation.

1 **SEC. 502. SPACE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.**

2 (a) AMENDMENT.—Section 70507 of title 51, United
3 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

4 **“§ 70507. Space Technology Program authorized**

5 “(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Administrator
6 shall establish a Space Technology Program to pursue the
7 research and development of advanced space technologies
8 that have the potential of delivering innovative solutions
9 and to support human exploration of the solar system or
10 advanced space science. The program established by the
11 Administrator shall take into consideration the rec-
12 ommendations of the National Academies’ review of the
13 Administration’s Space Technology roadmaps and prior-
14 ities, as well as applicable enabling aspects of the Human
15 Exploration Roadmap specified in section 70504. In con-
16 ducting the space technology program established under
17 this section, the Administrator shall—

18 “(1) to the maximum extent practicable, use a
19 competitive process to select projects to be supported
20 as part of the program;

21 “(2) make use of small satellites and the Ad-
22 ministration’s suborbital and ground-based plat-
23 forms, to the extent practicable and appropriate, to
24 demonstrate space technology concepts and develop-
25 ments; and

1 “(3) undertake partnerships with other Federal
2 agencies, universities, private industry, and other
3 spacefaring nations, as appropriate.

4 “(b) SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS.—The Adminis-
5 trator shall organize and manage the Administration’s
6 Small Business Innovation Research program and Small
7 Business Technology Transfer Program within the Space
8 Technology Program.

9 “(c) NONDUPLICATION CERTIFICATION.—The Ad-
10 ministrators shall include in the budget for each fiscal year,
11 as transmitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title
12 31, a certification that no project, program, or mission
13 undertaken by the Space Technology Program is duplica-
14 tive of any other project, program, or mission conducted
15 by another office or directorate of the Administration.”.

16 (b) COLLABORATION, COORDINATION, AND ALIGN-
17 MENT.—The Administrator shall ensure that the Adminis-
18 tration’s projects, programs, and activities in support of
19 technology research and development of advanced space
20 technologies are fully coordinated and aligned and that re-
21 sults from such work are shared and leveraged within the
22 Administration. Projects, programs, and activities being
23 conducted by the Human Exploration and Operations Mis-
24 sion Directorate in support of research and development
25 of advanced space technologies and systems focusing on

1 human space exploration should continue in that Direc-
2 torate. The Administrator shall ensure that organizational
3 responsibility for research and development activities in
4 support of human space exploration not initiated as of the
5 date of enactment of this Act is established on the basis
6 of a sound rationale. The Administrator shall provide the
7 rationale in the report specified in subsection (d).

8 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
9 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide
10 to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of
11 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
12 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report
13 comparing the Administration’s space technology invest-
14 ments with the high-priority technology areas identified by
15 the National Academies in the National Research Coun-
16 cil’s report on the Administration’s Space Technology
17 Roadmaps. The Administrator shall identify how the Ad-
18 ministration will address any gaps between the agency’s
19 investments and the recommended technology areas, in-
20 cluding a projection of funding requirements.

21 (d) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Administrator shall in-
22 clude in the Administration’s annual budget request for
23 each fiscal year the rationale for assigning organizational
24 responsibility for, in the year prior to the budget fiscal
25 year, each initiated project, program, and mission focused

1 on research and development of advanced technologies for
2 human space exploration.

3 (e) TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.—The item
4 relating to section 70507 in the table of sections for chap-
5 ter 705 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

“70507. Space Technology Program authorized.”.

7 **SEC. 503. UTILIZATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE**
8 **STATION FOR TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRA-**
9 **TIONS.**

10 The Administrator shall utilize the International
11 Space Station and commercial services for space tech-
12 nology demonstration missions in low-Earth orbit when-
13 ever it is practical and cost effective to do so.

14 **TITLE VI—EDUCATION**

15 **SEC. 601. EDUCATION.**

16 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
17 gress that—

18 (1) the Administration’s missions are an inspi-
19 ration for Americans and in particular for the next
20 generation, and that this inspiration has a powerful
21 effect in stimulating interest in science, technology,
22 engineering, and mathematics (in this section re-
23 ferred to as “STEM”) education and careers;

24 (2) the Administration’s Office of Education
25 and mission directorates have been effective in deliv-

1 ering Administration educational content because of
2 the strong engagement of Administration scientists
3 and engineers in the Administration’s education and
4 outreach activities; and

5 (3) the Administration should be a central part-
6 ner in contributing to the goals of the National
7 Science and Technology Council’s Federal Science,
8 Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
9 Education 5-Year Strategic Plan.

10 (b) IN GENERAL.—The Administration shall continue
11 its education and outreach efforts to—

12 (1) increase student interest and participation
13 in STEM education;

14 (2) improve public literacy in STEM;

15 (3) employ proven strategies for improving stu-
16 dent learning and teaching;

17 (4) provide curriculum support materials; and

18 (5) create and support opportunities for profes-
19 sional development for STEM teachers.

20 (c) ORGANIZATION.—In order to ensure the inspira-
21 tion and engagement of children and the general public,
22 the Administration shall continue its STEM education and
23 outreach activities within the Science, Aeronautics Re-
24 search, Space Operations, and Exploration Mission Direc-
25 torates.

1 (d) CONTINUATION OF EDUCATION AND OUTREACH
2 ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall
3 continue to carry out education and outreach programs
4 and activities through the Office of Education and the Ad-
5 ministration mission directorates and shall continue to en-
6 gage, to the maximum extent practicable, Administration
7 and Administration-supported researchers and engineers
8 in carrying out those programs and activities.

9 (e) CONTINUATION OF SPACE GRANT PROGRAM.—
10 The Administrator shall continue to operate the National
11 Space Grant College and Fellowship program through a
12 national network consisting of a State-based consortium
13 in each State that provides flexibility to the States, with
14 the objective of providing hands-on research, training, and
15 education programs, with measurable outcomes, to en-
16 hance America’s STEM education and workforce.

17 (f) REAFFIRMATION OF POLICY.—Congress reaffirms
18 its commitment to informal science education at science
19 centers and planetariums as set forth in section 616 of
20 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Au-
21 thorization Act of 2005 (51 U.S.C. 40907).

1 **SEC. 602. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL SPACE**
2 **GRANT COLLEGE AND FELLOWSHIP PRO-**
3 **GRAM.**

4 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
5 gress that the National Space Grant College and Fellow-
6 ship Program, which was established in the National Aero-
7 nautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of
8 1988 (42 U.S.C. 2486 et seq.), has been an important
9 program by which the Federal Government has partnered
10 with State and local governments, universities, private in-
11 dustry, and other organizations to enhance the under-
12 standing and use of space and aeronautics activities and
13 their benefits through education, fostering of interdiscipli-
14 nary and multidisciplinary space research and training,
15 and supporting Federal funding for graduate fellowships
16 in space-related fields, among other purposes.

17 (b) REVIEW.—The Administrator shall enter into an
18 arrangement with the National Academies for—

19 (1) a review of the National Space Grant Col-
20 lege and Fellowship Program, including its structure
21 and capabilities for supporting science, technology,
22 engineering, and mathematics education and train-
23 ing consistent with the National Science and Tech-
24 nology Council’s Federal Science, Technology, Engi-
25 neering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education 5-
26 Year Strategic Plan; and

1 (2) recommendations on measures, if needed, to
2 enhance the Program’s effectiveness and mecha-
3 nisms by which any increases in funding appro-
4 priated by Congress can be applied.

5 (c) NATIONAL SPACE GRANT COLLEGE AND FEL-
6 LOWSHIP PROGRAM AMENDMENTS.—

7 (1) PURPOSES.—Section 40301 of title 51,
8 United States Code, is amended—

9 (A) by striking “and” at the end of para-
10 graph (5);

11 (B) by striking the period at the end of
12 paragraph (6) and inserting “; and”; and

13 (C) by adding at the end the following new
14 paragraph:

15 “(7) support outreach to primary and sec-
16 ondary schools to help support STEM engagement
17 and learning at the K–12 level and to encourage K–
18 12 students to pursue postsecondary degrees in
19 fields related to space.”.

20 (2) REGIONAL CONSORTIUM.—Section 40306 of
21 title 51, United States Code, is amended—

22 (A) in subsection (a)—

23 (i) by redesignating paragraphs (2)
24 and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respec-
25 tively; and

1 (ii) by inserting after paragraph (1)
2 the following new paragraph:

3 “(2) INCLUSION OF 2-YEAR INSTITUTIONS.—A
4 space grant regional consortium designated in para-
5 graph (1)(B) may include one or more 2-year insti-
6 tutions of higher education.”; and

7 (B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “para-
8 graphs (2)(C) and (3)(D)” and inserting “para-
9 graphs (3)(C) and (4)(D)”.

10 **SEC. 603. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

11 It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator
12 should make the continuation of the Administration’s Mi-
13 nority University Research and Education Program a pri-
14 ority in order to further STEM education for underrep-
15 resented students.

16 **TITLE VII—POLICY PROVISIONS**

17 **SEC. 701. ASTEROID RETRIEVAL MISSION.**

18 (a) ASTEROID RETRIEVAL REPORT.—Not later than
19 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Ad-
20 ministrator shall provide to the Committee on Science,
21 Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives
22 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
23 tation of the Senate a report on the proposed Asteroid
24 Retrieval Mission. Such report shall include—

1 (1) a detailed budget profile, including cost esti-
2 mates for the development of all necessary tech-
3 nologies and spacecraft required for the mission;

4 (2) a detailed technical plan that includes mile-
5 stones and a specific schedule;

6 (3) a description of the technologies and capa-
7 bilities anticipated to be gained from the proposed
8 mission that will enable future human missions to
9 Mars which could not be gained by lunar missions;

10 (4) a description of the technologies and capa-
11 bilities anticipated to be gained from the proposed
12 mission that will enable future planetary defense
13 missions, against impact threats from near-Earth
14 objects equal to or greater than 140 meters in di-
15 ameter, which could not be gained by robotic mis-
16 sions; and

17 (5) a complete assessment by the Small Bodies
18 Assessment Group and the National Aeronautics and
19 Space Administration Advisory Council of how the
20 proposed mission is in the strategic interests of the
21 United States in space exploration.

22 (b) MARS FLYBY REPORT.—Not later than 60 days
23 after the date of enactment of this Act, an independent,
24 private systems engineering and technical assistance orga-
25 nization contracted by the Human Exploration Operations

1 Mission Directorate shall transmit to the Administrator,
2 the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the
3 House of Representatives, and the Committee on Com-
4 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report
5 analyzing the proposal for a Mars Flyby human
6 spaceflight mission to be launched in 2021. Such report
7 shall include—

8 (1) a technical development, test, fielding, and
9 operations plan using the Space Launch System and
10 other systems to successfully mount a Mars Flyby
11 mission by 2021;

12 (2) a description of the benefits in scientific
13 knowledge and technologies demonstrated by a Mars
14 Flyby mission to be launched in 2021 suitable for
15 future Mars missions; and

16 (3) an annual budget profile, including cost es-
17 timates, for the development test, fielding, and oper-
18 ations plan to carry out a Mars Flyby mission
19 through 2021 and comparison of that budget profile
20 to the 5-year budget profile contained in the Presi-
21 dent’s Budget request for fiscal year 2016.

22 (c) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 60 days after
23 transmittal of the report specified in subsection (b), the
24 Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science,
25 Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives

1 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
2 tation of the Senate an assessment by the National Aero-
3 nautics and Space Administration Advisory Council of
4 whether the proposal for a Mars Flyby Mission to be
5 launched in 2021 is in the strategic interests of the United
6 States in space exploration.

7 (d) CREWED MISSION.—The report transmitted
8 under subsection (b) may consider a crewed mission with
9 the Space Launch System in cis-lunar space prior to the
10 Mars Flyby mission in 2021.

11 **SEC. 702. TERMINATION LIABILITY SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

12 It is the sense of Congress that:

13 (1) The International Space Station, the Space
14 Launch System, and the Orion crew capsule will en-
15 able the Nation to continue operations in low-Earth
16 orbit and to send its astronauts to deep space. The
17 James Webb Space Telescope will revolutionize our
18 understanding of star and planet formation and how
19 galaxies evolved and advance the search for the ori-
20 gins of our universe. As a result of their unique ca-
21 pabilities and their critical contribution to the future
22 of space exploration, these systems have been des-
23 ignated by Congress and the Administration as pri-
24 ority investments.

1 (2) In addition, contractors are currently hold-
2 ing program funding, estimated to be in the hun-
3 dreds of millions of dollars, to cover the potential
4 termination liability should the Government choose
5 to terminate a program for convenience. As a result,
6 hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars are unavail-
7 able for meaningful work on these programs.

8 (3) According to the Government Accountability
9 Office, the Administration procures most of its
10 goods and services through contracts, and it termi-
11 nates very few of them. In fiscal year 2010, the Ad-
12 ministration terminated 28 of 16,343 active con-
13 tracts and orders—a termination rate of about 0.17
14 percent.

15 (4) The Administration should vigorously pur-
16 sue a policy on termination liability that maximizes
17 the utilization of its appropriated funds to make
18 maximum progress in meeting established technical
19 goals and schedule milestones on these high-priority
20 programs.

21 **SEC. 703. BASELINE AND COST CONTROLS.**

22 Section 30104 of title 51, United States Code, is
23 amended—

24 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “Proce-
25 dural Requirements 7120.5c, dated March 22,

1 2005” and inserting “Procedural Requirements
2 7120.5E, dated August 14, 2012”; and

3 (2) in subsection (f), by striking “beginning 18
4 months after the date the Administrator transmits a
5 report under subsection (e)(1)(A)” and inserting
6 “beginning 18 months after the Administrator
7 makes such determination”.

8 **SEC. 704. PROJECT AND PROGRAM RESERVES.**

9 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
10 gress that the judicious use of program and project re-
11 serves provides the Administration’s project and program
12 managers with the flexibility needed to manage projects
13 and programs to ensure that the impacts of contingencies
14 can be mitigated.

15 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
16 of enactment of this Act the Administrator shall transmit
17 to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of
18 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
19 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report
20 describing—

21 (1) the Administration’s criteria for establishing
22 the amount of reserves held at the project and pro-
23 gram levels;

1 (2) how such criteria relate to the agency’s poli-
2 icy of budgeting at a 70-percent confidence level;
3 and

4 (3) the Administration’s criteria for waiving the
5 policy of budgeting at a 70-percent confidence level
6 and alternative strategies and mechanisms aimed at
7 controlling program and project costs when a waiver
8 is granted.

9 **SEC. 705. INDEPENDENT REVIEWS.**

10 Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment
11 of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Com-
12 mittee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House
13 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
14 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report de-
15 scribing—

16 (1) the Administration’s procedures for con-
17 ducting independent reviews of projects and pro-
18 grams at lifecycle milestones and how the Adminis-
19 tration ensures the independence of the individuals
20 who conduct those reviews prior to their assignment;

21 (2) the internal and external entities inde-
22 pendent of project and program management that
23 conduct reviews of projects and programs at life
24 cycle milestones; and

1 (3) how the Administration ensures the inde-
2 pendence of such entities and their members.

3 **SEC. 706. COMMERCIAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PRO-**
4 **GRAM.**

5 Section 50116(a) of title 51, United States Code, is
6 amended by inserting “, while protecting national secu-
7 rity” after “research community”.

8 **SEC. 707. NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINIS-**
9 **TRATION ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

10 (a) STUDY.—The Administrator shall enter into an
11 arrangement with the National Academy of Public Admin-
12 istration to assess the effectiveness of the NASA Advisory
13 Council and to make recommendations to Congress for
14 any change to—

15 (1) the functions of the Council;

16 (2) the appointment of members to the Council;

17 (3) qualifications for members of the Council;

18 (4) duration of terms of office for members of
19 the Council;

20 (5) frequency of meetings of the Council;

21 (6) the structure of leadership and Committees
22 of the Council; and

23 (7) levels of professional staffing for the Coun-
24 cil.

1 In carrying out the assessment, the Academy shall also
2 assess the impacts of broadening the Council’s role to ad-
3 vising Congress, and any other issues that the Academy
4 determines could potentially impact the effectiveness of
5 the Council. The Academy shall consider the past activities
6 of the NASA Advisory Council, as well as the activities
7 of other analogous Federal advisory bodies in conducting
8 its assessment. The results of the assessment, including
9 any recommendations, shall be transmitted to the Com-
10 mittee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House
11 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
12 Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

13 (b) CONSULTATION AND ADVICE.—Section 20113(g)
14 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by inserting
15 “and Congress” after “advice to the Administration”.

16 (c) SUNSET.—Effective on September 30, 2015, sec-
17 tion 20113(g) of title 51, United States Code, is amended
18 by striking “and Congress”.

19 **SEC. 708. COST ESTIMATION.**

20 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
21 gress that realistic cost estimating is critically important
22 to the ultimate success of major space development
23 projects. The Administration has devoted significant ef-
24 forts over the past 5 years to improving its cost estimating
25 capabilities, but it is important that the Administration

1 continue its efforts to develop and implement guidance in
2 establishing realistic cost estimates.

3 (b) GUIDANCE AND CRITERIA.—The Administrator
4 shall provide to programs and projects, and in a manner
5 consistent with the Administration’s Space Flight Pro-
6 gram and Project Management Requirements—

7 (1) guidance on when an Independent Cost Es-
8 timate and Independent Cost Assessment should be
9 used; and

10 (2) the criteria to be used to make such a de-
11 termination.

12 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date
13 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit
14 to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of
15 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
16 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a re-
17 port—

18 (1) describing efforts to enhance internal cost
19 estimation and assessment expertise;

20 (2) describing the mechanisms the Administra-
21 tion is using and will continue to use to ensure that
22 adequate resources are dedicated to cost estimation;

23 (3) listing the steps the Administration is un-
24 dertaking to advance consistent implementation of
25 the joint cost and schedule process;

1 (4) identifying criteria used by programs and
2 projects in determining when to conduct an Inde-
3 pendent Cost Estimate and Independent Cost As-
4 sessment; and

5 (5) listing—

6 (A) the costs of each individual Inde-
7 pendent Cost Estimate or Independent Cost As-
8 sessment activity conducted in fiscal year 2012,
9 fiscal year 2013, and fiscal year 2014;

10 (B) the purpose of the activity;

11 (C) identification of the primary Adminis-
12 tration unit or outside body that conducted the
13 activity; and

14 (D) key findings and recommendations.

15 (d) UPDATED REPORT.—Subsequent to submission
16 of the report under subsection (c), for each subsequent
17 year, the Administrator shall provide an update of listed
18 elements in conjunction with subsequent congressional
19 budget justifications.

20 **SEC. 709. AVOIDING ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICTS OF IN-**
21 **TEREST IN MAJOR ADMINISTRATION ACQUI-**
22 **SITION PROGRAMS.**

23 (a) REVISED REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later
24 than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act,
25 the Administrator shall revise the Administration Supple-

1 ment to the Federal Acquisition Regulation to provide uni-
2 form guidance and recommend revised requirements for
3 organizational conflicts of interest by contractors in major
4 acquisition programs in order to address elements identi-
5 fied in subsection (b).

6 (b) ELEMENTS.—The revised regulations required by
7 subsection (a) shall, at a minimum—

8 (1) address organizational conflicts of interest
9 that could potentially arise as a result of—

10 (A) lead system integrator contracts on
11 major acquisition programs and contracts that
12 follow lead system integrator contracts on such
13 programs, particularly contracts for production;

14 (B) the ownership of business units per-
15 forming systems engineering and technical as-
16 sistance functions, professional services, or
17 management support services in relation to
18 major acquisition programs by contractors who
19 simultaneously own business units competing to
20 perform as either the prime contractor or the
21 supplier of a major subsystem or component for
22 such programs;

23 (C) the award of major subsystem con-
24 tracts by a prime contractor for a major acqui-
25 sition program to business units or other affili-

1 ates of the same parent corporate entity, and
2 particularly the award of subcontracts for soft-
3 ware integration or the development of a pro-
4 prietary software system architecture; or

5 (D) the performance by, or assistance of,
6 contractors in technical evaluations on major
7 acquisition programs;

8 (2) ensure that the Administration receives ad-
9 vice on systems architecture and systems engineer-
10 ing matters with respect to major acquisition pro-
11 grams from objective sources independent of the
12 prime contractor;

13 (3) require that a contract for the performance
14 of systems engineering and technical assistance
15 functions for a major acquisition program contains
16 a provision prohibiting the contractor or any affiliate
17 of the contractor from participating as a prime con-
18 tractor or a major subcontractor in the development
19 of a system under the program; and

20 (4) establish such limited exceptions to the re-
21 quirement in paragraphs (2) and (3) as may be nec-
22 essary to ensure that the Administration has contin-
23 ued access to advice on systems architecture and
24 systems engineering matters from highly qualified
25 contractors with domain experience and expertise,

1 while ensuring that such advice comes from sources
2 that are objective and unbiased.

3 **SEC. 710. FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE.**

4 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
5 gress that—

6 (1) the Administration must reverse the deterio-
7 rating condition of its facilities and infrastructure,
8 as this condition is hampering the effectiveness and
9 efficiency of research performed by both the Admin-
10 istration and industry participants making use of
11 Administration facilities, thus reducing the competi-
12 tiveness of the United States aerospace industry;

13 (2) the Administration has a role in providing
14 laboratory capabilities to industry participants that
15 are economically viable as commercial entities and
16 thus are not available elsewhere;

17 (3) to ensure continued access to reliable and
18 efficient world-class facilities by researchers, the Ad-
19 ministration should seek to establish strategic part-
20 nerships with other Federal agencies, academic insti-
21 tutions, and industry, as appropriate; and

22 (4) decisions on whether to dispose of, main-
23 tain, or modernize existing facilities must be made
24 in the context of meeting future Administration and
25 other Federal agencies' laboratory needs, including

1 those required to meet the activities supporting the
2 Human Exploration Roadmap required by section
3 70504 of title 51, United States Code.

4 (b) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States
5 that the Administration maintain reliable and efficient fa-
6 cilities and that decisions on whether to dispose of, main-
7 tain, or modernize existing facilities be made in the con-
8 text of meeting future Administration needs.

9 (c) PLAN.—The Administrator shall develop a plan
10 that has the goal of positioning the Administration to have
11 the facilities, laboratories, tools, and approaches necessary
12 to address future Administration requirements. Such plan
13 shall identify—

14 (1) future Administration research and develop-
15 ment and testing needs;

16 (2) a strategy for identifying facilities that are
17 candidates for disposal, that is consistent with the
18 national strategic direction set forth in—

19 (A) the National Space Policy;

20 (B) the National Aeronautics Research,
21 Development, Test, and Evaluation Infrastruc-
22 ture Plan;

23 (C) National Aeronautics and Space Ad-
24 ministration Authorization Acts; and

1 (D) the Human Exploration Roadmap
2 specified in section 70504 of title 51, United
3 States Code;

4 (3) a strategy for the maintenance, repair, up-
5 grading, and modernization of the Administration's
6 laboratories, facilities, and equipment;

7 (4) criteria for prioritizing deferred mainte-
8 nance tasks and also for upgrading or modernizing
9 laboratories, facilities, and equipment and imple-
10 menting processes, plans, and policies for guiding
11 the Administration's Centers on whether to main-
12 tain, repair, upgrade, or modernize a facility and for
13 determining the type of instrument to be used;

14 (5) an assessment of modifications needed to
15 maximize usage of facilities that offer unique and
16 highly specialized benefits to the aerospace industry
17 and the American public; and

18 (6) implementation steps, including a timeline,
19 milestones, and an estimate of resources required for
20 carrying out the plan.

21 (d) POLICY.—Not later than 180 days after the date
22 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall establish
23 and make publically available a policy that guides the Ad-
24 ministration's use of existing authorities to out-grant,
25 lease, excess to the General Services Administration, sell,

1 decommission, demolish, or otherwise transfer property,
2 facilities, or infrastructure. This policy shall establish cri-
3 teria for the use of authorities, best practices, standard-
4 ized procedures, and guidelines for how to appropriately
5 manage property, infrastructure, and facilities.

6 (e) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
8 transmit the plan developed under subsection (c) to the
9 Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the
10 House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
11 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

12 (f) ESTABLISHMENT OF CAPITAL FUND.—The Ad-
13 ministrator shall establish a capital fund for the mod-
14 ernization of facilities and laboratories. The Administrator
15 shall ensure to the maximum extent practicable that all
16 financial savings achieved by closing outdated or surplus
17 facilities at an Administration Center shall be made avail-
18 able to that Center for the purpose of modernizing the
19 Center's facilities and laboratories and for upgrading the
20 infrastructure at the Center.

21 (g) REPORT ON CAPITAL FUND.—Expenditures and
22 other activities of the fund established under subsection
23 (f) shall require review and approval by the Administrator
24 and the status, including the amounts held in the capital
25 fund, shall be reported to the Committee on Science,

1 Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives
2 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
3 tation of the Senate in conjunction with the Administra-
4 tion's annual budget request justification for each fiscal
5 year.

6 **SEC. 711. DETECTION AND AVOIDANCE OF COUNTERFEIT**
7 **ELECTRONIC PARTS.**

8 (a) REGULATIONS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days
10 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
11 trator shall revise the National Aeronautics and
12 Space Administration Supplement to the Federal
13 Acquisition Regulation to address the detection and
14 avoidance of counterfeit electronic parts.

15 (2) CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES.—The re-
16 vised regulations issued pursuant to paragraph (1)
17 shall provide that—

18 (A) Administration contractors who supply
19 electronic parts or products that include elec-
20 tronic parts are responsible for detecting and
21 avoiding the use or inclusion of counterfeit elec-
22 tronic parts or suspect counterfeit electronic
23 parts in such products and for any rework or
24 corrective action that may be required to rem-
25 edy the use or inclusion of such parts; and

1 (B) the cost of counterfeit electronic parts
2 and suspect counterfeit electronic parts and the
3 cost of rework or corrective action that may be
4 required to remedy the use or inclusion of such
5 parts are not allowable costs under Administra-
6 tion contracts, unless—

7 (i) the covered contractor has an oper-
8 ational system to detect and avoid counter-
9 feit parts and suspect counterfeit electronic
10 parts that has been reviewed and approved
11 by the Administration or the Department
12 of Defense;

13 (ii) the covered contractor provides
14 timely notice to the Administration pursu-
15 ant to paragraph (4); or

16 (iii) the counterfeit electronic parts or
17 suspect counterfeit electronic parts were
18 provided to the contractor as Government
19 property in accordance with part 45 of the
20 Federal Acquisition Regulation.

21 (3) SUPPLIERS OF ELECTRONIC PARTS.—The
22 revised regulations issued pursuant to paragraph (1)
23 shall—

1 (A) require that the Administration and
2 Administration contractors and subcontractors
3 at all tiers—

4 (i) obtain electronic parts that are in
5 production or currently available in stock
6 from the original manufacturers of the
7 parts or their authorized dealers, or from
8 suppliers who obtain such parts exclusively
9 from the original manufacturers of the
10 parts or their authorized dealers; and

11 (ii) obtain electronic parts that are
12 not in production or currently available in
13 stock from suppliers that meet qualifica-
14 tion requirements established pursuant to
15 subparagraph (C);

16 (B) establish documented requirements
17 consistent with published industry standards or
18 Government contract requirements for—

19 (i) notification of the Administration;

20 and

21 (ii) inspection, testing, and authen-
22 tication of electronic parts that the Admin-
23 istration or an Administration contractor
24 or subcontractor obtains from any source

1 other than a source described in subpara-
2 graph (A);

3 (C) establish qualification requirements,
4 consistent with the requirements of section
5 2319 of title 10, United States Code, pursuant
6 to which the Administration may identify sup-
7 pliers that have appropriate policies and proce-
8 dures in place to detect and avoid counterfeit
9 electronic parts and suspect counterfeit elec-
10 tronic parts; and

11 (D) authorize Administration contractors
12 and subcontractors to identify and use addi-
13 tional suppliers beyond those identified pursu-
14 ant to subparagraph (C) provided that—

15 (i) the standards and processes for
16 identifying such suppliers comply with es-
17 tablished industry standards;

18 (ii) the contractor or subcontractor
19 assumes responsibility for the authenticity
20 of parts provided by such suppliers as pro-
21 vided in paragraph (2); and

22 (iii) the selection of such suppliers is
23 subject to review and audit by appropriate
24 Administration officials.

1 (4) **TIMELY NOTIFICATION.**—The revised regu-
2 lations issued pursuant to paragraph (1) shall re-
3 quire that any Administration contractor or subcon-
4 tractor who becomes aware, or has reason to sus-
5 pect, that any end item, component, part, or mate-
6 rial contained in supplies purchased by the Adminis-
7 tration, or purchased by a contractor or subcon-
8 tractor for delivery to, or on behalf of, the Adminis-
9 tration, contains counterfeit electronic parts or sus-
10 pect counterfeit electronic parts, shall provide notifi-
11 cation to the applicable Administration contracting
12 officer within 30 calendar days.

13 (b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 120 days after the re-
14 vised regulations specified in subsection (a) have been im-
15 plemented, the Administrator shall submit to the Com-
16 mittee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House
17 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
18 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report updat-
19 ing the Administration’s actions to prevent counterfeit
20 electronic parts from entering the supply chain as de-
21 scribed in its October 2011 report pursuant to section
22 1206(d) of the National Aeronautics and Space Adminis-
23 tration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18444(d)).

24 (c) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “elec-
25 tronic part” means a discrete electronic component, in-

1 cluding a microcircuit, transistor, capacitor, resistor, or
2 diode that is intended for use in a safety or mission critical
3 application.

4 **SEC. 712. SPACE ACT AGREEMENTS.**

5 (a) **COST SHARING.**—To the extent that the Adminis-
6 trator determines practicable, the funds provided by the
7 Government under a funded Space Act Agreement shall
8 not exceed the total amount provided by other parties to
9 the Space Act Agreement.

10 (b) **NEED.**—A funded Space Act Agreement may be
11 used only when the use of a standard contract, grant, or
12 cooperative agreement is not feasible or appropriate, as
13 determined by the Associate Administrator for Procure-
14 ment.

15 (c) **PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT.**—The Adminis-
16 trator shall make available for public notice and comment
17 each proposed Space Act Agreement at least 30 days be-
18 fore entering into such agreement, with appropriate
19 redactions for proprietary, sensitive, or classified informa-
20 tion.

21 (d) **TRANSPARENCY.**—The Administrator shall pub-
22 licly disclose on the Administration’s website and make
23 available in a searchable format each Space Act Agree-
24 ment, with appropriate redactions for proprietary, sen-

1 sitive, or classified information, not later than 60 days
2 after such agreement is signed.

3 (e) ANNUAL REPORT.—

4 (1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days
5 after the end of each fiscal year, the Administrator
6 shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space,
7 and Technology of the House of Representatives and
8 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
9 portation of the Senate a report on the use of Space
10 Act Agreement authority by the Administration dur-
11 ing the previous fiscal year.

12 (2) CONTENTS.—The report shall include for
13 each Space Act Agreement in effect at the time of
14 the report—

15 (A) an indication of whether the agreement
16 is a reimbursable, nonreimbursable, or funded
17 Space Act Agreement;

18 (B) a description of—

19 (i) the subject and terms;

20 (ii) the parties;

21 (iii) the responsible—

22 (I) mission directorate;

23 (II) center; or

24 (III) headquarters element;

25 (iv) the value;

1 (v) the extent of the cost sharing
2 among Federal Government and non-Fed-
3 eral sources;

4 (vi) the time period or schedule; and

5 (vii) all milestones; and

6 (C) an indication of whether the agreement
7 was renewed during the previous fiscal year.

8 (3) ANTICIPATED AGREEMENTS.—The report
9 shall also include a list of all anticipated reimburs-
10 able, nonreimbursable, and funded Space Act Agree-
11 ments for the upcoming fiscal year.

12 (4) CUMULATIVE PROGRAM BENEFITS.—The
13 report shall also include, with respect to the Space
14 Act Agreements covered by the report, a summary
15 of—

16 (A) the technology areas in which research
17 projects were conducted under such agreements;

18 (B) the extent to which the use of the
19 Space Act Agreements—

20 (i) has contributed to a broadening of
21 the technology and industrial base avail-
22 able for meeting Administration needs; and

23 (ii) has fostered within the technology
24 and industrial base new relationships and

1 practices that support the United States;
2 and

3 (C) the total amount of value received by
4 the Federal Government during the fiscal year
5 pursuant to such Space Act Agreements.

6 **SEC. 713. HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT ACCIDENT INVESTIGA-**
7 **TIONS.**

8 Section 70702(a) of title 51, United States Code, is
9 amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(3) any other orbital or suborbital space vehi-
12 cle carrying humans—

13 “(A) that is owned by the Federal Govern-
14 ment; or

15 “(B) that is being used pursuant to a con-
16 tract or Space Act Agreement, as defined in
17 section 2 of the National Aeronautics and
18 Space Administration Authorization Act of
19 2015, with the Federal Government for car-
20 rying a researcher or payload funded by the
21 Federal Government; or”.

22 **SEC. 714. FULLEST COMMERCIAL USE OF SPACE.**

23 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date
24 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit
25 to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of

1 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
2 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report
3 on current and continuing efforts by the Administration
4 to “seek and encourage, to the maximum extent possible,
5 the fullest commercial use of space,” as described in sec-
6 tion 20102(c) of title 51, United States Code.

7 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under sub-
8 section (a) shall include—

9 (1) an assessment of the Administration’s ef-
10 forts to comply with the policy;

11 (2) an explanation of criteria used to define
12 compliance;

13 (3) a description of programs, policies, and ac-
14 tivities the Administration is using, and will continue
15 to use, to ensure compliance;

16 (4) an explanation of how the Administration
17 could expand on the efforts to comply; and

18 (5) a summary of all current and planned ac-
19 tivities pursuant to this policy.

20 (c) BARRIERS TO FULLEST COMMERCIAL USE OF
21 SPACE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enact-
22 ment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the
23 Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the
24 House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
25 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report

1 on current and continuing efforts by the Administration
2 to reduce impediments, bureaucracy, redundancy, and
3 burdens to ensure the fullest commercial use of space as
4 required by section 20102(c) of title 51, United States
5 Code.

6 **SEC. 715. ORBITAL DEBRIS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that orbital debris
8 poses serious risks to the operational space capabilities of
9 the United States and that an international commitment
10 and integrated strategic plan are needed to mitigate the
11 growth of orbital debris wherever possible. Congress finds
12 the delay in the Office of Science and Technology Policy’s
13 submission of a report on the status of international co-
14 ordination and development of mitigation strategies to be
15 inconsistent with such risks.

16 (b) REPORTS.—

17 (1) COORDINATION.—Not later than 90 days
18 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
19 trator shall provide the Committee on Science,
20 Space, and Technology of the House of Representa-
21 tives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
22 Transportation of the Senate with a report on the
23 status of efforts to coordinate with countries within
24 the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Com-
25 mittee to mitigate the effects and growth of orbital

1 debris as required by section 1202(b)(1) of the Na-
2 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration Au-
3 thorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18441(b)(1)).

4 (2) MITIGATION STRATEGY.—Not later than 90
5 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Di-
6 rector of the Office of Science and Technology Policy
7 shall provide the Committee on Science, Space, and
8 Technology of the House of Representatives and the
9 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
10 tation of the Senate with a report on the status of
11 the orbital debris mitigation strategy required under
12 section 1202(b)(2) of the National Aeronautics and
13 Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42
14 U.S.C. 18441(b)(2)).

15 **SEC. 716. REVIEW OF ORBITAL DEBRIS REMOVAL CON-**
16 **CEPTS.**

17 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
18 gress that the amount of orbital debris in low-Earth orbit
19 poses risks for human activities and robotic spacecraft and
20 that this debris may increase due to collisions between ex-
21 isting debris objects. Understanding options to address
22 and remove orbital debris is important for ensuring safe
23 and effective spacecraft operations in low-Earth orbit.

24 (b) REVIEW.—The Administrator, in collaboration
25 with other relevant Federal agencies, shall solicit and re-

1 view concepts and technological options for removing or-
2 bital debris from low-Earth orbit. The solicitation and re-
3 view shall also address the requirements for and feasibility
4 of developing and implementing each of the options.

5 (c) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 270 days after
6 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
7 provide a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and
8 Technology of the House of Representatives and the Com-
9 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
10 Senate on the solicitation and review required under sub-
11 section (b).

12 **SEC. 717. USE OF OPERATIONAL COMMERCIAL SUB-**
13 **ORBITAL VEHICLES FOR RESEARCH, DEVEL-**
14 **OPMENT, AND EDUCATION.**

15 (a) POLICY.—The Administrator shall develop a pol-
16 icy on the use of operational commercial reusable sub-
17 orbital flight vehicles for carrying out scientific and engi-
18 neering investigations and educational activities.

19 (b) PLAN.—The Administrator shall prepare a plan
20 on the Administration’s use of operational commercial re-
21 usable suborbital flight vehicles for carrying out scientific
22 and engineering investigations and educational activities.
23 The plan shall—

24 (1) describe the purposes for which the Admin-
25 istration intends to use such vehicles;

1 (2) describe the processes required to support
2 such use, including the criteria used to determine
3 which scientific and engineering investigations and
4 educational activities are selected for a suborbital
5 flight;

6 (3) describe Administration, space flight oper-
7 ator, and supporting contractor responsibilities for
8 developing standard payload interfaces and con-
9 ducting payload safety analyses, payload integration
10 and processing, payload operations, and safety as-
11 surance for Administration-sponsored space flight
12 participants, among other functions required to fly
13 Administration-sponsored payloads and space flight
14 participants on operational commercial suborbital ve-
15 hicles;

16 (4) identify Administration-provided hardware,
17 software, or services that may be provided to com-
18 mercial reusable suborbital space flight operators on
19 a cost-reimbursable basis, through agreements or
20 contracts entered into under section 20113(e) of
21 title 51, United States Code; and

22 (5) describe the United States Government and
23 space flight operator responsibilities for liability and
24 indemnification with respect to commercial sub-
25 orbital vehicle flights that involve Administration-

1 sponsored payloads or activities, Administration-sup-
2 ported space flight participants, or other Adminis-
3 tration-related contributions.

4 (c) ASSESSMENT OF CAPABILITIES AND RISKS.—The
5 Administrator shall assess and characterize the potential
6 capabilities and performance of commercial reusable sub-
7 orbital vehicles for addressing scientific research, includ-
8 ing research requiring access to low-gravity and micro-
9 gravity environments, for carrying out technology dem-
10 onstrations related to science, exploration, or space oper-
11 ations requirements, and for providing opportunities for
12 educating and training space scientists and engineers,
13 once those vehicles become operational. The assessment
14 shall also characterize the risks of using potential commer-
15 cial reusable suborbital flights to Administration-spon-
16 sored researchers and scientific investigations and flight
17 hardware.

18 (d) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
19 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
20 transmit the plan and assessment described in subsections
21 (b) and (c) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-
22 nology of the House of Representatives and the Committee
23 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

24 (e) ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS.—In conjunction
25 with the Administration’s annual budget request justifica-

1 tion for each fiscal year, the Administrator shall transmit
2 a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-
3 nology of the House of Representatives and the Committee
4 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate
5 describing progress in carrying out the Commercial Reus-
6 able Suborbital Research Program, including the number
7 and type of suborbital missions planned in each fiscal
8 year.

9 (f) INDEMNIFICATION AND LIABILITY.—The Admin-
10 istrator shall not proceed with a request for proposals,
11 award any contract, commit any United States Govern-
12 ment funds, or enter into any other agreement for the pro-
13 vision of a commercial reusable suborbital vehicle launch
14 service for an Administration-sponsored spaceflight partic-
15 ipant until transmittal of the plan and assessment speci-
16 fied in subsections (b) and (c), the liability issues associ-
17 ated with the use of such systems by the United States
18 Government have been addressed, and the liability and in-
19 demnification provisions that are planned to be included
20 in such contracts or agreements have been provided to the
21 Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the
22 House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
23 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

1 **SEC. 718. FUNDAMENTAL SPACE LIFE AND PHYSICAL**
2 **SCIENCES RESEARCH.**

3 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It the sense of Congress
4 that fundamental, discovery-based space life and physical
5 sciences research is critical for enabling space exploration,
6 protecting humans in space, and providing societal bene-
7 fits, and that the space environment facilitates the ad-
8 vancement of understanding of the life sciences and phys-
9 ical sciences. Space life and physical science research con-
10 tributes to advancing science, technology, engineering, and
11 mathematics research, and provides careers and training
12 opportunities in academia, Federal laboratories, and com-
13 mercial industry. Congress encourages the Administrator
14 to augment discovery-based fundamental research and to
15 establish requirements reflecting the importance of such
16 research in keeping with the priorities established in the
17 National Academies’ decadal survey entitled “Recapturing
18 a Future for Space Exploration: Life and Physical
19 Sciences Research for a New Era”.

20 (b) BUDGET REQUEST.—The Administrator shall in-
21 clude as part of the Administration’s annual budget re-
22 quest for each fiscal year a budget line for fundamental
23 space life and physical sciences research, devoted to com-
24 petitive, peer-reviewed grants, that is separate from the
25 International Space Station Operations account.

26 (c) STRATEGIC PLAN.—

1 (1) DEVELOPMENT.—The Administrator, in
2 consultation with academia, other Federal agencies,
3 and other potential stakeholders, shall develop a
4 strategic plan for carrying out competitive, peer-re-
5 viewed fundamental space life science and physical
6 sciences and related technology research, among
7 other activities, consistent with the priorities in the
8 National Academies’ decadal survey described in
9 subsection (a).

10 (2) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 270 days
11 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
12 trator shall transmit the strategic plan developed
13 under paragraph (1) to the Committee on Science,
14 Space, and Technology of the House of Representa-
15 tives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
16 Transportation of the Senate.

17 **SEC. 719. RESTORING COMMITMENT TO ENGINEERING RE-**
18 **SEARCH.**

19 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
20 gress that engineering excellence has long been a hallmark
21 of the Administration’s ability to make significant ad-
22 vances in aeronautics and space exploration. However, as
23 has been noted in recent National Academies reports, in-
24 creasingly constrained funding and competing priorities
25 have led to an erosion of the Administration’s commitment

1 to basic engineering research. This research provides the
2 basis for the technology development that enables the Ad-
3 ministration's many challenging missions to succeed. If
4 current trends continue, the Administration's ability to at-
5 tract and maintain the best and brightest engineering
6 workforce at its Centers as well as its ability to remain
7 on the cutting edge of aeronautical and space technology
8 will continue to erode and will threaten the Administra-
9 tion's ability to be a world leader in aeronautics research
10 and development and space exploration.

11 (b) PLAN.—The Administrator shall develop a plan
12 for restoring a meaningful basic engineering research pro-
13 gram at the Administration's Centers, including, as appro-
14 priate, collaborations with industry, universities, and other
15 relevant organizations. The plan shall identify the organi-
16 zational approach to be followed, an initial set of basic
17 research priorities, and a proposed budget.

18 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
19 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit
20 the plan specified in subsection (b) to the Committee on
21 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
22 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
23 and Transportation of the Senate.

1 **SEC. 720. LIQUID ROCKET ENGINE DEVELOPMENT PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 The Administrator shall consult with the Secretary
4 of Defense to ensure that any next generation liquid rock-
5 et engine made in the United States for national security
6 space launch objectives can contribute, to the extent prac-
7 ticable, to the space programs and missions carried out
8 by the Administration.

9 **SEC. 721. REMOTE SATELLITE SERVICING DEMONSTRA-**
10 **TIONS.**

11 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
12 gress that—

13 (1) the Administration plays a key role in dem-
14 onstrating the feasibility of using robotic tech-
15 nologies for a spacecraft that could autonomously
16 access, inspect, repair, and refuel satellites;

17 (2) demonstrating this feasibility would both as-
18 sist the Administration in its future missions and
19 provide other Federal agencies and private sector en-
20 tities with enhanced confidence in the feasibility to
21 robotically refuel, inspect, repair, and maintain their
22 satellites in both near and distant orbits; and

23 (3) the capability to refuel, inspect, repair, and
24 maintain satellites robotically could add years of
25 functional life to satellites.

1 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date
2 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit
3 a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-
4 nology of the House of Representatives and the Committee
5 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate
6 describing the Administration’s—

7 (1) activities, tools, and techniques associated
8 with the ultimate goal of autonomously servicing sat-
9 ellites using robotic spacecraft;

10 (2) efforts to coordinate its technology develop-
11 ment and demonstrations with other Federal agen-
12 cies and private sector entities that conduct pro-
13 grams, projects, or activities on on-orbit satellite in-
14 spection and servicing capabilities;

15 (3) efforts to leverage the work of these Federal
16 agencies and private sector entities into the Admin-
17 istration’s plans;

18 (4) accomplishments to date in demonstrating
19 various servicing technologies;

20 (5) major technical and operational challenges
21 encountered and mitigation measures taken; and

22 (6) demonstrations needed to increase con-
23 fidence in the use of the technologies for operational
24 missions, and the timeframe for these demonstra-
25 tions.

1 **SEC. 722. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GOVERNANCE.**

2 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
3 gress that information security is central to the Adminis-
4 tration’s ability to protect information and information
5 systems vital to its mission.

6 (b) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United
7 States shall conduct a study to assess the effectiveness of
8 the Administration’s Information Technology Governance.
9 The study shall include an assessment of—

10 (1) the resources available for overseeing Ad-
11 ministration-wide information technology operations,
12 investments, and security measures and the Chief
13 Information Officer’s visibility into and access to
14 those resources;

15 (2) the effectiveness of the Administration’s de-
16 centralized information technology structure, deci-
17 sionmaking processes and authorities and its ability
18 to enforce information security; and

19 (3) the impact of providing the Chief Informa-
20 tion Officer approval authority over information
21 technology investments that exceed a defined mone-
22 tary threshold and any potential impacts of the
23 Chief Information Officer having such authority on
24 the Administration’s missions, flights programs and
25 projects, research activities, and Center operations.

1 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
2 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall
3 transmit a report detailing the results of the study con-
4 ducted under subsection (b) to the Committee on Science,
5 Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives
6 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
7 tation of the Senate.

8 **SEC. 723. STRENGTHENING ADMINISTRATION SECURITY.**

9 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
10 ings:

11 (1) Following the public disclosure of security
12 and export control violations at its research centers,
13 the Administration contracted with the National
14 Academy of Public Administration to conduct an
15 independent assessment of how the Administration
16 carried out Foreign National Access Management
17 practices and other security matters.

18 (2) The assessment by the National Academy of
19 Public Administration concluded that “NASA net-
20 works are compromised”, that the Administration
21 lacked a standardized and systematic approach to
22 export compliance, and that individuals within the
23 Administration were not held accountable when
24 making serious, preventable errors in carrying out

1 Foreign National Access Management practices and
2 other security matters.

3 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date
4 of enactment of this Act, the Administration shall report
5 to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of
6 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
7 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on how
8 it plans to address each of the recommendations made in
9 the security assessment by the National Academy of Pub-
10 lic Administration and the recommendations made by the
11 Government Accountability Office and the Administra-
12 tion’s Office of the Inspector General regarding security
13 and safeguarding export control information.

14 (c) REVIEW.—Not later than 1 year after the date
15 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the
16 United States shall report to the Committee on Science,
17 Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives
18 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
19 tation of the Senate its assessment of how the Administra-
20 tion has complied with the recommendations described in
21 subsection (b).

1 **SEC. 724. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR CONTRAC-**
2 **TORS THAT HAVE COMMITTED FRAUD OR**
3 **OTHER CRIMES.**

4 None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or
5 otherwise made available for fiscal year 2015 or any fiscal
6 year thereafter for the Administration may be used to
7 enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its prin-
8 cipals if the offeror certifies, pursuant to the Federal Ac-
9 quisition Regulation, that the offeror or any of its prin-
10 cipals—

11 (1) within a 3-year period preceding the offer
12 has been convicted of or had a civil judgment ren-
13 dered against it for—

14 (A) commission of fraud or a criminal of-
15 fense in connection with obtaining, attempting
16 to obtain, or performing a public (Federal,
17 State, or local) contract or subcontract;

18 (B) violation of Federal or State antitrust
19 statutes relating to the submission of offers; or

20 (C) commission of embezzlement, theft,
21 forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of
22 records, making false statements, tax evasion,
23 violating Federal criminal tax laws, or receiving
24 stolen property;

25 (2) are presently indicted for, or otherwise
26 criminally or civilly charged by a governmental enti-

1 ty with, commission of any of the offenses enumer-
2 ated in paragraph (1); or

3 (3) within a 3-year period preceding the offer,
4 has been notified of any delinquent Federal taxes in
5 an amount that exceeds \$3,000 for which the liabil-
6 ity remains unsatisfied.

7 **SEC. 725. PROTECTION OF APOLLO LANDING SITES.**

8 (a) ASSESSMENT.—The Director of the Office of
9 Science and Technology Policy, in consultation with all rel-
10 evant agencies of the Federal Government and other ap-
11 propriate entities and individuals, shall carry out a review
12 and assessment of the issues involved in protecting and
13 preserving historically important Apollo Program lunar
14 landing sites and Apollo program artifacts residing on the
15 lunar surface, including those pertaining to Apollo 11 and
16 Apollo 17. The review and assessment shall, at a min-
17 imum, include determination of what risks to the protec-
18 tion and preservation of those sites and artifacts exist or
19 may exist in the future, what measures are required to
20 ensure such protection and preservation, the extent to
21 which additional domestic legislation or international trea-
22 ties or agreements will be required, and specific rec-
23 ommendations for protecting and preserving those lunar
24 landing sites and artifacts.

1 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
2 of enactment of this Act, the Director shall transmit to
3 the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the
4 House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
5 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the re-
6 sults of the assessment required under subsection (a).

7 **SEC. 726. ASTRONAUT OCCUPATIONAL HEALTHCARE.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The National Academies’ Insti-
9 tute of Medicine report “Health Standards for Long Du-
10 ration and Exploration Spaceflight: Ethics Principles, Re-
11 sponsibilities, and Decision Framework” found that the
12 Administration has ethical responsibilities for and should
13 adopt policies and processes related to health standards
14 for long duration and exploration spaceflights that recog-
15 nize those ethical responsibilities. In particular, the report
16 recommended that the Administration “provide preventa-
17 tive long-term health screening and surveillance of astro-
18 nauts and lifetime health care to protect their health, sup-
19 port ongoing evaluation of health standards, improve mis-
20 sion safety, and reduce risks for current and future astro-
21 nauts”.

22 (b) RESPONSE.—The Administration shall prepare a
23 response to the National Academies report recommenda-
24 tion described in subsection (a). The response shall include
25 the estimated budgetary resources required for the imple-

1 mentation of those recommendations, and any options that
2 might be considered as part of the response.

3 (c) TRANSMITTAL.—The response required under
4 subsection (b) shall be transmitted to the Committee on
5 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
6 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
7 and Transportation of the Senate not later than 6 months
8 after the date of enactment of this Act.

9 **SEC. 727. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ACCESS TO OBSERVA-**
10 **TIONAL DATA SETS.**

11 It is the sense of Congress that the Administration
12 should prioritize the development of tools and interfaces
13 that make publicly available observational data sets more
14 easy to access, analyze, manipulate, and understand for
15 students, teachers, and the American public at large, with
16 a particular focus on K–12 and undergraduate STEM
17 education settings.

Passed the House of Representatives February 10,
2015.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.