

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2542

To encourage the reduction of the costs of access to space for both the Federal Government and the private sector, thereby regaining recently lost market share of the United States commercial launch industry, improving the economic competitiveness of the United States in the world markets, and strengthening and maintaining the national security of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 1999

Mr. CRAMER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Science

A BILL

To encourage the reduction of the costs of access to space for both the Federal Government and the private sector, thereby regaining recently lost market share of the United States commercial launch industry, improving the economic competitiveness of the United States in the world markets, and strengthening and maintaining the national security of the United States.

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.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Space Access Improve-
3 ment Act of 1999”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds that—

6 (1) the commercialization of space has played a
7 significant role in establishing the United States as
8 an economic superpower;

9 (2) vital services enabled by satellites in space,
10 such as global positioning, early ballistic missile
11 launch warning, weather observations, intelligence
12 gathering, and global communications, have played a
13 significant role in establishing the United States as
14 a military superpower;

15 (3) access to space enables research in space
16 science to enhance our understanding of the Uni-
17 verse and the physical sciences, and enables observa-
18 tions of the Earth to monitor our global environ-
19 ment, establishing the United States as a scientific
20 and technological superpower;

21 (4) activities in space have a remarkable ability
22 to inspire future generations of Americans to study
23 science, engineering, and mathematics, enhancing
24 the scientific and technical capabilities of the United
25 States;

1 (5) the United States is rapidly losing its share
2 of the commercial space launch market to a number
3 of foreign nations; and

4 (6) the Federal Government is currently under-
5 funding the research and development of cutting-
6 edge technologies associated with advanced space
7 transportation systems that would lead to significant
8 decreases in the costs of access to space.

9 **SEC. 3. REDUCING SPACE ACCESS COSTS.**

10 (a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 102 of the National Aer-
11 onautics and Space Act of 1958 (42 U.S.C. 2451) is
12 amended—

13 (1) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), (e),
14 (f), (g), and (h) as subsections (d), (e), (f), (g), (h),
15 and (i), respectively;

16 (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
17 lowing new subsection:

18 “(c) The Congress declares that the general welfare
19 of the United States requires that the National Aero-
20 nautics and Space Administration work to identify and de-
21 velop innovative technologies which would reduce the costs
22 of transporting payloads and personnel to and from space,
23 while simultaneously increasing the reliability and safety
24 of advanced space transportation systems. The Congress
25 further declares that the general welfare of the United

1 States requires that, to the extent feasible, the Federal
2 Government—

3 “(1) aggressively fund the development of inno-
4 vative propulsion systems, high-temperature thermal
5 protection systems, integrated vehicle health moni-
6 toring systems, lightweight durable airframes, and
7 simplified launch and processing operations;

8 “(2) maintain a concerted effort in the develop-
9 ment and testing of new space transportation tech-
10 nologies while providing sufficient funding for basic
11 scientific research that is necessary for the long-
12 term, revolutionary advances that will drastically re-
13 duce the costs of space access;

14 “(3) enhance United States economic competi-
15 tiveness by facilitating United States commercial
16 sector access to space transportation technology,
17 data, and facilities, within the constraints imposed
18 by national security considerations;

19 “(4) enter into appropriate cooperative research
20 and development agreements with the United States
21 academic and commercial sectors to advance space
22 transportation research, development, and oper-
23 ations;

24 “(5) minimize regulations that discourage aca-
25 demic and commercial sector involvement in the de-

1 velopment of advanced space transportation tech-
2 nologies;

3 “(6) utilize to the fullest extent possible exper-
4 tise and products available within the United States
5 prior to seeking availability from foreign nations, ex-
6 cept in cases where such utilization would be incon-
7 sistent with the United States public interests;

8 “(7) equitably promote engineering and science
9 education related to space transportation tech-
10 nologies, within constraints of national security con-
11 siderations, to as broad a range of individuals as
12 possible; and

13 “(8) continue to closely protect the intellectual
14 property rights associated with advancements in ad-
15 vanced space transportation systems to maintain
16 United States competitiveness in the world.”; and

17 (3) in subsection (i), as so redesignated by
18 paragraph (1) of this subsection, by striking “sub-
19 sections (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g)” and in-
20 serting “this section”.

21 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 206 of the
22 National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (42 U.S.C.
23 2476) is amended by striking “section 102(c)” both places
24 it appears and inserting “section 102(e)”.

1 **SEC. 4. FURTHER ADVANCEMENT OF SPACE TRANSPOR-**
2 **TATION TECHNOLOGIES.**

3 Section 201 of the National Aeronautics and Space
4 Administration Authorization Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C.
5 2466) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “is the pri-
7 mary” and inserting “remains an important”; and

8 (2) in paragraph (5), by inserting “, and must
9 therefore also be committed to further developing
10 low-cost, frequent, and reliable access to space”
11 after “transportation”.

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