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115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1159

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 21, 2017

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

AN ACT

To provide for continuing cooperation between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Israel Space Agency, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''United States and Israel Space Cooperation Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) authorized in 1958, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) supports and coordinates United States Government research in aeronautics, human exploration and operations, science, and space technology;

(2) established in 1983, the Israel Space Agency (ISA) supports the growth of Israel's space industry by supporting academic research, technological innovation, and educational activities;

(3) the mutual interest of the United States and Israel in space exploration affords both nations an opportunity to leverage their unique abilities to advance scientific discovery;

(4) in 1996, NASA and the ISA entered into their first agreement outlining areas of mutual cooperation, which remained in force until 2005;

(5) since 1996, NASA and the ISA have successfully cooperated on many space programs supporting the Global Positioning System and research related to the sun, earth science, and the environment;

(6) the bond between NASA and the ISA was permanently forged on February 1, 2003, with the loss of the crew of STS–107 including Israeli Astronaut Ilan Ramon;

(7) the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–296) designated Israel as a Major Strategic Partner of the United States; and

(8) on October 13, 2015, the United States and Israel signed the Framework Agreement between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States of America and the Israel Space Agency for Cooperation in Aeronautics and the Exploration and Use of Airspace and Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes.

SEC. 3. CONTINUING COOPERATION.

The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall continue to work with the Israel Space Agency to identify and cooperatively pursue peaceful space exploration and science initiatives in areas of mutual interest, taking all appropriate measures to pro-

tect sensitive information, intellectual property, trade secrets, and economic interests of the United States.

Passed the House of Representatives December 20, 2017.

Attest: KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.