

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6910

To specify goals and objectives of the United States with respect to human spaceflight, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

Mr. BABIN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To specify goals and objectives of the United States with respect to human spaceflight, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Leading Human
5 Spaceflight Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Apollo 11 landing on July 20, 1969,
9 marked the first steps of a human being on the sur-
10 face of another world, representing a giant leap for

1 all humanity and a significant demonstration of the
2 spaceflight capabilities of the United States.

3 (2) Section 202(a) of the National Aeronautics
4 and Space Administration Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C.
5 18312(a)) establishes for the National Aeronautics
6 and Space Administration the long-term goals of ex-
7 panding human presence in space and establishing a
8 thriving space economy in low-Earth orbit and be-
9 yond.

10 (3) The National Security Strategy of the
11 United States of America issued in December 2017
12 designates the human exploration of the solar sys-
13 tem as a strategic priority for the United States.

14 (4) Establishing and ensuring the sustainability
15 of human space exploration of the solar system, as
16 called for in Space Policy Directive–1 issued in De-
17 cember 2017 and the National Space Exploration
18 Campaign issued in September 2018, will require
19 carrying out human exploration and related
20 extravehicular activities on the surface of other ce-
21 lestial bodies in a safe and cost-effective manner.

22 (5) The Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center has
23 decades of experience working with international
24 partners, other government agencies, and partners
25 in industry and academia to study, develop, and

1 carry out the human spaceflight priorities of the
2 United States.

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

4 It is the sense of Congress that—

5 (1) the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center is
6 critical to the achievement of the civil space mission
7 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administra-
8 tion in the areas of program management and inte-
9 gration of large complex human spaceflight pro-
10 grams, including overall systems engineering and in-
11 tegration, human health and safety in space, and
12 crewed spacecraft development and operations, espe-
13 cially those outlined in the National Space Explo-
14 ration Campaign;

15 (2) the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center's
16 unique flagship facilities, capabilities and experience
17 in human spaceflight operations and program man-
18 agement, including astronaut training, program inte-
19 gration and mission control, have been vital to
20 human spaceflight achievements of the United
21 States since the 1960s and will continue to serve a
22 vital role in maintaining a permanent human pres-
23 ence in low-Earth orbit, as well as successfully car-
24 rying out the National Space Exploration Campaign;

1 (3) the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
2 should continue its leadership in human spaceflight
3 and exploration through its role as the home of the
4 United States astronaut corps, mission operations,
5 the International Space Station Program, the Orion
6 Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle Program, astromaterials
7 research and exploration science, and contributions
8 to projects which extend human space exploration
9 beyond low-Earth orbit, such as the Gateway and
10 other capabilities envisioned by the National Space
11 Exploration Campaign;

12 (4) human space exploration programs of the
13 National Aeronautics and Space Administration, in-
14 cluding, but not limited to those described in the
15 National Space Exploration Campaign, should rely
16 on the experienced workforce and core capabilities of
17 the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, to serve as a
18 lead center for program management, systems engi-
19 neering, program integration, and operations, to the
20 extent practicable;

21 (5) conducting human space exploration and
22 maintaining a human presence at any destination or
23 outpost in low-Earth orbit and beyond, as called for
24 in the National Space Exploration Campaign, ex-
25 pands the sphere of influence of the United States;

1 (6) successfully conducting the National Space
2 Exploration Campaign depends on a broad base of
3 technical and operational expertise and core capabilities
4 provided by the NASA centers and industry
5 partners;

6 (7) the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center's role
7 as a leading source of such expertise and capabilities
8 makes it an important driver of economic activity in
9 the United States;

10 (8) the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center has
11 a tremendous opportunity to take a leadership role
12 in promoting broader economic engagement with the
13 commercial, academic, and industrial entities in the
14 United States and globally; and

15 (9) the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center shall
16 have a primary role in the development, integration
17 and operations of space and supporting systems critical
18 to the National Space Exploration Campaign,
19 including major systems elements and key infrastructure
20 operated in the vicinity of—

21 (A) low-Earth orbit;

22 (B) the Moon;

23 (C) Mars or its moons; or

24 (D) any other destinations pursuant to the
25 objectives specified in section 202(1) of the Na-

1 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration
2 Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C.
3 18312(a)).

4 **SEC. 4. POLICY.**

5 It is the policy of the United States to continue a
6 human presence capability in low-Earth orbit and that
7 such capability—

8 (1) maintains the United States global leader-
9 ship and relationships with partners and allies;

10 (2) contributes to the general welfare of the
11 United States; and

12 (3) shall be affordable as to not preclude a ro-
13 bust portfolio of other human space exploration ac-
14 tivities.

15 **SEC. 5. INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION.**

16 (a) AUTHORIZED OPERATIONS.—The International
17 Space Station, as long as it is safe and functional, shall
18 operate through at least September 30, 2030, or until a
19 demonstrated and sustainable lower cost alternative low-
20 Earth orbit platform can achieve the mission objectives of
21 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, in-
22 cluding but not limited to:

23 (1) Conducting scientific, exploration and
24 human research programs to extend our human
25 presence beyond low-Earth orbit.

1 (2) Benefiting life on Earth.

2 (3) Increasing U.S. economic competitiveness
3 and commercial participation.

4 (b) AUTHORIZED ISS ACTIVITIES.—The Inter-
5 national Space Station shall continue scientific and re-
6 search programs and serve as a testbed to enable and ad-
7 vance technology development and space operations capa-
8 bilities for deep space exploration and to foster and en-
9 courage commercial activities in low-Earth orbit.

10 (c) COMMERCIAL CAPABILITIES.—In order to facili-
11 tate the growth of commercial participants and activities,
12 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall
13 work with the private sector to develop commercial capa-
14 bilities in low-Earth orbit that can achieve the National
15 Aeronautics and Space Administration’s objectives. By
16 December 31, 2024, NASA or a partner organization
17 should attempt to achieve the following:

18 (1) A product produced or manufactured
19 aboard the ISS or in low-Earth orbit by a private
20 entity has been successfully marketed and sold.

21 (2) Any U.S. non-governmental user of the ISS
22 has paid some or all of the costs of payload integra-
23 tion or transportation to the ISS.

1 (3) A non-NASA, U.S. government customer
2 flies a scientific or research payload on board the
3 ISS.

4 (4) The United States flight of a crew member
5 aboard the ISS on a commercial basis wherein their
6 time is available for purchase by ISS users.

7 (5) A non-U.S. entity, not currently covered by
8 the ISS Intergovernmental Agreement, notwith-
9 standing other provisions of law, purchase or acquire
10 a presence on or services from the ISS.

11 (d) ISS TRANSITION STRATEGY.—Not later than 180
12 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ad-
13 ministrators of the National Aeronautics and Space Admin-
14 istration shall deliver to the Committee on Science, Space,
15 and Technology of the House of Representatives and the
16 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of
17 the Senate a strategy that—

18 (1) provides clear guidance on how the National
19 Aeronautics and Space Administration will ensure a
20 stepwise transition to an eventual successor platform
21 consistent with the ISS Transition Principles speci-
22 fied in the International Space Station Transition
23 Report issued pursuant to the section 50111(c)(2) of
24 title 51, United States Code, on March 30, 2018;

1 (2) includes capability driven milestones and
2 timelines leading to such a transition;

3 (3) takes into account the importance of main-
4 taining workforce expertise, core capabilities and
5 continuity at National Aeronautics and Space Ad-
6 ministration centers, including those primarily fo-
7 cused on human spaceflight;

8 (4) considers how any such transition affects
9 current partnerships;

10 (5) presents opportunities for future engage-
11 ment with—

12 (A) current international partners;

13 (B) countries with growing spaceflight ca-
14 pabilities, where not precluded by other provi-
15 sions of law;

16 (C) private sector; and

17 (D) other United States Government users;

18 and

19 (6) promotes the continued economic develop-
20 ment of low-Earth orbit.

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