

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2504

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 6, 2018

Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. NELSON, and Mr. GARDNER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To provide for continuing cooperation between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Israel Space Agency, 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 “United States and
5 Israel Space Cooperation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) authorized in 1958, the National Aero-
9 nautics and Space Administration (NASA) supports

1 and coordinates United States Government research
2 in aeronautics, human exploration and operations,
3 science, and space technology;

4 (2) established in 1983, the Israel Space Agen-
5 cy (ISA) supports the growth of Israel's space indus-
6 try by supporting academic research, technological
7 innovation, and educational activities;

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

12 (4) in 1996, NASA and the ISA entered into
13 their first agreement outlining areas of mutual co-
14 operation, which remained in force until 2005;

15 (5) since 1996, NASA and the ISA have suc-
16 cessfully cooperated on many space programs sup-
17 porting the Global Positioning System and research
18 related to the sun, earth science, and the environ-
19 ment;

20 (6) the bond between NASA and the ISA was
21 permanently forged on February 1, 2003, with the
22 loss of the crew of STS-107 including Israeli Astro-
23 naut Ilan Ramon;

24 (7) the United States-Israel Strategic Partner-
25 ship Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-296) designated

1 Israel as a Major Strategic Partner of the United
2 States; and

3 (8) on October 13, 2015, the United States and
4 Israel signed the Framework Agreement between the
5 National Aeronautics and Space Administration of
6 the United States of America and the Israel Space
7 Agency for Cooperation in Aeronautics and the Ex-
8 ploration and Use of Airspace and Outer Space for
9 Peaceful Purposes.

10 **SEC. 3. CONTINUING COOPERATION.**

11 The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and
12 Space Administration shall continue to work with the
13 Israel Space Agency to identify and cooperatively pursue
14 peaceful space exploration and science initiatives in areas
15 of mutual interest, taking all appropriate measures to pro-
16 tect sensitive information, intellectual property, trade se-
17 crets, and economic interests of the United States.

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