

vessels ENCHANTED ISLES (Panamanian official number 14087-84B) and ENCHANTED SEAS (Panamanian official number 14064-84D), except that the vessels may not operate between or among islands in the State of Hawaii.

By Mr. PRESSLER (for himself and Mr. BURNS):

S. 1048 A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1996 to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for human space flight; science, aeronautics, and technology; mission support; and inspector general; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

THE NASA AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, today I introduced the NASA Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996. NASA faces two challenges. The first is maintaining America's leadership in aeronautics and space. The second is accomplishing the leadership goal within the confines of a balanced Federal budget. This authorization is intended to allow NASA to meet both of these challenges.

NASA started out this year with a plan to cut \$5 billion over 5 years from its budget. Then, the Senate and House developed budget plans which require even deeper cuts. As a result, our bill authorizes a total of \$13.8 billion for NASA in fiscal year 1996, a 3-percent decrease from the current funding level of \$14.26 billion.

Despite the funding cut, the bill manages to support a diverse and forward-looking space program. It authorizes all of NASA's major current programs such as Mission to Planet Earth, Space Station, Space Science, and Aeronautics and, in almost all cases, at their requested funding levels. At the same time, it prepares NASA for the future by authorizing a number of new starts including the new Reusable Launch Vehicle Technology Development Program aimed at providing private industry the technology to eventually build a Shuttle replacement, and a new radar satellite program to develop and make use of the latest advances in satellite remote sensing technology.

Mr. President, I would now like to make special mention of certain portions of the bill.

I believe Mission to Planet Earth may be NASA's most important and relevant program. The satellite data from Mission to Planet Earth will deliver direct benefits to the taxpayer in contrast to the speculative spinoffs promised by other space activities. For this reason, the bill fully funds this activity at the requested level of \$1.36 billion.

Using the latest satellite technology, Mission to Planet Earth will help researchers understand and predict the global climate trends that affect our lives. As a Senator representing an agricultural State, I have a keen interest in this program's potential to provide

detailed data on soil conditions, topography, crops, and other information critical to the farming and ranching community. I also take great pride in the selection of the EROS Data Center in Sioux Falls, SD as one of the regional data centers that will collect and distribute this satellite data.

I am very concerned that, under the new budget constraints in which we find ourselves, some may seek to sacrifice Mission to Planet Earth, and space science in general, to fund Space Station. That would be a disservice to the Nation and I will oppose any such move strongly.

I am pleased with the direction of the baseline plan for the Mission to Planet Earth Program and am concerned about the possibility of NASA taking any imprudent and unnecessary efforts to restructure the program. Accordingly, the bill specifically prohibits NASA from changing the program unless, 60 days before such action, NASA has reported to Congress on the nature and overall impact of the planned changes.

The bill also provides the full \$2.1 billion requested funding for space station. However, this authorization should not be interpreted as a ringing endorsement of that program. I am a longstanding supporter of the program, but, in recent years, I have become concerned that it has become too expensive, too complex, and too dependent on the contributions of Russia, the latest station partner.

In a June 1995 report, the General Accounting Office [GAO] estimated that the total cost of the design, launch, and operation of the space station will be \$94 billion. That is almost seven times the entire annual budget for NASA. Given the history of past missions, it is fair to assume that \$94 billion price tag for the program will increase over time. If that happens, we may wake up to find the enormous space station budget has crowded out every other NASA program and that space station has become NASA's only mission. Because of my reservations about space station, I may well reconsider my support in the future.

The bill also supports several new starts at NASA to extend its vision into the next century. The bill authorizes a reusable launch vehicle program, which will support the X-33 and X-34 activities to pave the way for the later development by private enterprise of a replacement for the shuttle in the next decade.

Employing 1970's technologies and costing \$400 million per flight, the shuttle may have outlived its usefulness. However, within today's budget constraints, the Government cannot afford to foot the entire bill for a new multibillion spacecraft development program. That is why the reusable launch vehicle program, with its emphasis on sharing financing with industry and its goal of moving our national space transportation system toward privatization, seems a viable concept worth pursuing.

Also authorized are the New Millennium initiative to develop new micro-miniature technologies aimed at reducing the cost and development times for satellites and two infrared astronomy programs—the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy and the Space Infrared Telescope Facility. The bill also authorizes a new Radar Satellite Program we call "TopSat," and a third shuttle flight for the Shuttle Imaging Radar-C satellite. Because radar satellites have the ability to "see" through cloud cover, they will dramatically enhance the capability of the Nation's existing optical-based satellite systems such as Landsat. With Japan and Europe already operating radar satellite systems, and with Canada poised to deploy one later this year, the United States cannot afford to be left behind in this critical technology.

In my role as chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, it has become apparent to me that small-city, rural States like my home State of South Dakota are often forgotten in our vast \$70 billion Federal science and technology enterprise. That part of America wants to be part of the technological revolution. More important, it wants to contribute.

It is in the national interest to strengthen the scientific talent, resources, and infrastructure in our rural States through appropriate research, education, and outreach activities. The bill attempts to accomplish this in several ways. It increases funding for the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research Program [EPSCoR] from its current level of \$4.9 million to \$6.9 million. NASA's EPSCoR Program, as well as similar programs in six other science agencies, have been instrumental in providing Federal funding for academic research in rural States. Our bill also funds a Rural Teacher Resource Center, a Rural Technology Transfer and Commercialization Center, and a regional science education and outreach center for the Plains States region.

Mr. President, I believe NASA is up to the challenge of keeping America preeminent in aeronautics and space despite the intense budget pressure and despite the increasing competition from other spacefaring nations. It is my belief this authorization bill provides NASA with the support it needs to meet that challenge.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 295

At the request of Mrs. KASSEBAUM, the name of the Senator from Arizona [Mr. MCCAIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 295, a bill to permit labor management cooperative efforts that improve America's economic competitiveness to continue to thrive, and for other purposes.

S. 426

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, the name of the Senator from Michigan [Mr. LEVIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 426, a bill to authorize the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity to establish a memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr., in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

S. 530

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Montana [Mr. BAUCUS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 530, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to permit State and local government workers to perform volunteer services for their employer without requiring the employer to pay overtime compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 603

At the request of Mr. FAIRCLOTH, the name of the Senator from Washington [Mr. GORTON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 603, a bill to nullify an Executive order that prohibits Federal contracts with companies that hire permanent replacements for striking employees, and for other purposes.

S. 628

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota [Mr. GRAMS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 628, a bill to repeal the Federal estate and gift taxes and the tax on generation-skipping transfers.

S. 770

At the request of Mr. DOLE, the name of the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI] was added as a cosponsor of S. 770, a bill to provide for the relocation of the United States Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, and for other purposes.

S. 772

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Vermont [Mr. JEFFORDS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 772, a bill to provide for an assessment of the violence broadcast on television, and for other purposes.

S. 773

At the request of Mrs. KASSEBAUM, the names of the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. BUMPERS], the Senator from Florida [Mr. MACK], the Senator from Missouri [Mr. ASHCROFT], and the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN] were added as cosponsors of S. 773, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for improvements in the process of approving and using animal drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 877

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Arizona [Mr. KYL] was added as a cosponsor of S. 877, a bill to amend section 353 of the Public Health Service Act to exempt physician office laboratories from the clinical laboratories requirements of that section.

S. 930

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the name of the Senator from Arizona [Mr. MCCAIN] was added as a cosponsor of S.

930, a bill to require States receiving prison construction grants to implement requirements for inmates to perform work and engage in educational activities, and for other purposes.

S. 989

At the request of Mrs. KASSEBAUM, the name of the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 989, a bill to limit funding of an Executive order that would prohibit Federal contractors from hiring permanent replacements for lawfully striking employees, and for other purposes.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 103

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Louisiana [Mr. JOHNSTON] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 103, a resolution to proclaim the week of October 15 through October 21, 1995, as National Character Counts Week, and for other purposes.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 146

At the request of Mr. JOHNSTON, the name of the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. DOMENICI] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 146, a resolution designating the week beginning November 19, 1995, and the week beginning on November 24, 1996, as "National Family Week," and for other purposes.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 149

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Vermont [Mr. JEFFORDS] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 149, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the recent announcement by the Republic of France that it intends to conduct a series of underground nuclear test explosions despite the current international moratorium on nuclear testing.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1530

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL the names of the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. FORD] and the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. FAIRCLOTH] were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1530 intended to be proposed to S. 343, a bill to reform the regulatory process, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

## THE COMPREHENSIVE REGULATORY REFORM ACT OF 1995

HUTCHISON (AND ASHCROFT)  
AMENDMENT NO. 1789

Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. ASHCROFT) proposed an amendment to amendment No. 1786 proposed by Mr. ASHCROFT to the bill (S. 343) to reform the regulatory process, and for other purposes; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be added, add the following:

## "TITLE II—URBAN REGULATORY RELIEF ZONES

## SECTION 201. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Urban Regulatory Relief Zone Act of 1995".

## SEC. 202. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) the likelihood that a proposed business site will comply with many government regulations is inversely related to the length of time over which a site has been utilized for commercial and/or industrial purposes in the past, thus rendering older sites in urban areas the sites most unlikely to be chosen for new development and thereby forcing new development away from the areas most in need of economic growth and job creation; and

(2) broad Federal regulations often have unintended social and economic consequences in urban areas where such regulations, among other things—

(A) offend basic notions of common sense, particularly when applied to individual sites;

(B) adversely impact economic stability;

(C) result in the unnecessary loss of existing jobs and businesses;

(D) undermine new economic development, especially in previously used sites;

(E) create undue economic hardships while failing significantly to protect human health, particularly in areas where economic development is urgently needed in order to improve the health and welfare of residents over the long term; and

(F) contribute to social deterioration to a such degree that high unemployment, crime, and other economic and social problems create the greatest risk to the health and well-being of urban residents.

## SEC. 203. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this title are to—

(1) enable qualifying cities to provide for the general well-being, health, safety and security for their residents living in distressed areas by empowering such cities to obtain selective relief from Federal regulations that undermine economic stability and development in distressed areas within the city; and

(2) authorize Federal agencies to waive the application of specific Federal regulations in distressed urban areas designated as Urban Regulatory Relief Zones by an Economic Development Commission—

(A) upon application through the Office of Management and Budget by an Economic Development Commission established by a qualifying city pursuant to section 205; and

(B) upon a determination by the appropriate Federal agency that granting such a waiver will not substantially endanger health or safety.

## SEC. 204. ELIGIBILITY FOR WAIVERS.

(a) ELIGIBLE CITIES.—The mayor or chief executive officer of a city may establish an Economic Development Commission to carry out the purposes of section 205 if the city has a population greater than 200,000 according to:

(1) the U.S. Census Bureau's 1992 estimate for city populations; or

(2) beginning six months after the enactment of this title, the U.S. Census Bureau's latest estimate for city populations.

(b) DISTRESSED AREA.—Any census tract within a city shall qualify as distressed area if—

(1) 33 percent or more of the resident population in the census tract is below the poverty line; or

(2) 45 percent or more of out-of-school males aged 16 and over in the census tract worked less than 26 weeks in the preceding year; or

(3) 36 percent or more families with children under age 18 in the census tract have an unmarried parent as head of the household; or

(4) 17 percent or more of the resident families in the census tract received public assistance income in the preceding year.

## SEC. 205. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONS.

(a) PURPOSE.—The mayor or chief executive officer of a qualifying city under section