

for our country. I am pleased to have negotiated with so many people—Senator HUTCHISON, Senator KYL on that side, Senator WARNER and others—that we were able to reach agreements so we will have a way forward dealing with only a couple controversial issues that will remain and then we will have final passage.

I know the Senator from Florida wishes to speak.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN.) The Senator from Florida.

SPACE PROGRAM

Mr. LEMIEUX. Mr. President, I am here to speak on this FAA bill and on an amendment that I filed on this bill concerning the space program.

For decades, the space shuttle has been a symbol for American innovation and ingenuity and the pioneering spirit that has made our Nation the most technologically advanced country in the world.

Today, our space program, however, stands at a crossroads, between one project and the next. For years, we have had soaring aspirations about space without funding. Now we have a plan that includes the money but lacks the vision.

In our Nation's space program, we cannot have money without ambition. The result will be directionless spending. As sure as winter follows fall, that directionless spending will lead to cuts in spending and eventually, I believe, the demise of our space program.

In 2004, the Constellation Program was announced as a followup to the space shuttle program. That vision was endorsed by Congress in 2005 and in 2008. In both years, we directed NASA to focus its efforts on returning to the Moon by 2020 and someday sending Americans to Mars and worlds beyond.

In fact, I have here the public law that was passed just about a year and a half ago, October 15 of 2008. It is Public Law 110-422. If I may read from it, it says:

The Congress finds, on this, the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the following:

It goes on to say that one of the points they find is:

Developing United States human space flight capabilities to allow independent American access to the International Space Station, and to explore beyond low Earth orbit, is a strategically important national imperative, and all prudent steps should thus be taken to bring the Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle and Ares I Crew Launch Ve-

hicle to full operational capability as soon as possible and to ensure the effective development of a United States heavy lift launch capability as soon as possible and to ensure the effective development of a United States heavy lift launch capability for missions beyond low Earth orbit.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have that portion of the public law printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds, on this, the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration following:

(1) NASA is and should remain a multimission agency with a balanced and robust set of core missions in science, aeronautics, and human space flight and exploration.

(2) Investment in NASA's programs will promote innovation through research and development, and will improve the competitiveness of the United States.

(3) Investment in NASA's programs, like investments in other Federal science and technology activities, is an investment in our future.

(4) Properly structured, NASA's activities can contribute to an improved quality of life, economic vitality, United States leadership in peaceful cooperation with other nations on challenging undertakings in science and technology, national security, and the advancement of knowledge.

(5) NASA should assume a leadership role in a cooperative international Earth observations and research effort to address key research issues associated with climate change and its impacts on the Earth system.

(6) NASA should undertake a program of aeronautical research, development, and where appropriate demonstration activities with the overarching goals of—

(A) ensuring that the Nation's future air transportation system can handle up to 3 times the current travel demand and incorporate new vehicle types with no degradation in safety or adverse environmental impact on local communities;

(B) protecting the environment;

(C) promoting the security of the Nation; and

(D) retaining the leadership of the United States in global aviation.

(7) Human and robotic exploration of the solar system will be a significant long-term undertaking of humanity in the 21st century and beyond, and it is in the national interest that the United States should assume a leadership role in a cooperative international exploration initiative.

(8) Developing United States human space flight capabilities to allow independent American access to the International Space Station, and to explore beyond low Earth orbit, is a strategically important national imperative, and all prudent steps should thus be taken to bring the Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle and Ares I Crew Launch Vehicle to full operational capability as soon as possible and to ensure the effective development of a United States heavy lift launch capability for missions beyond low Earth orbit.

(9) NASA's scientific research activities have contributed much to the advancement of knowledge, provided societal benefits, and helped train the next generation of scientists and engineers, and those activities should continue to be an important priority.

(10) NASA should make a sustained commitment to a robust long-term technology development activity. Such investments represent the critically important "seed corn"

on which NASA's ability to carry out challenging and productive missions in the future will depend.

(11) NASA, through its pursuit of challenging and relevant activities, can provide an important stimulus to the next generation to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

(12) Commercial activities have substantially contributed to the strength of both the United States space program and the national economy, and the development of a healthy and robust United States commercial space sector should continue to be encouraged.

(13) It is in the national interest for the United States to have an export control policy that protects the national security while also enabling the United States aerospace industry to compete effectively in the global market place and the United States to undertake cooperative programs in science and human space flight in an effective and efficient manner.

Mr. LEMIEUX. That was a year and a half ago. This is now. The President's 2011 budget cancels this program, the Constellation Program, and what it does, in effect, is put our efforts for space exploration in severe jeopardy, potentially risking the jobs of more than 7,000 rocket scientists in Florida as well as jobs throughout this country in more than 20 States.

I understand there are many private conversations going on between Members of this body and the administration concerning this topic. But I think it is important to reflect back upon what then-Senator Obama, then-candidate Obama said about space exploration and compare it to what his administration has proposed in his budget.

In August of 2008, Senator Obama was campaigning in Florida, in Titusville, FL, on our space coast. He said this:

One of the areas where we are in danger of losing our competitive edge is our space program. When I was growing up, NASA inspired the world with achievements we are still proud of. Today, we have an administration—

He is referring to the Bush administration—

that has set ambitious goals for NASA without giving NASA the support it needs to reach them. As a result, they've had to cut back on research, and trim their programs, which means that after the Space Shuttle shuts down in 2010, we're going to have to rely on Russian spacecraft to keep us in orbit.

He goes on to say:

More broadly, we need a real vision for space exploration. To help formulate this vision, I'll reestablish the National Aeronautics and Space Council so that we can develop a plan to explore the solar system—a plan that involves both human and robotic missions, and enlists both international partners and the private sector. And as America leads the world to long-term exploration of the moon, Mars, and beyond . . .

And he goes on to say a few more things.

So we know the Congress passed a law that was reaffirmed in 2008, on October 15, that said we were going to go into low-Earth orbit with the Constellation Program. We know the President of the United States, when

campaigning for this office, said we must be exceptional in the space program, continue with our vision, properly funded, go to the Moon and Mars and planets beyond.

But today the President's budget scraps that plan. We have no plan to get into low-Earth orbit after the Space Shuttle is retired. We are going to rely upon the Russians to take us to the International Space Station—exactly what candidate-Obama said we should be worried about.

So to this end, I have filed an amendment, an amendment to the FAA Reauthorization Act, to prohibit NASA from terminating the Constellation Program. It is the prerogative of this institution, the Congress—that our Founders put forth—it is our prerogative to deem how money is spent, how programs are funded. This Congress twice has said we will fund the Constellation Program, that we will fund these programs for the next generation of spacecraft to take us into low-Earth orbit.

This amendment reiterates the Federal law prohibiting NASA from using funds in fiscal year 2010 to cancel Constellation contracts. Several of my colleagues have joined me in this amendment: Senator WICKER from Mississippi, Senator SHELBY from Alabama, Senator SESSIONS from Alabama, Senator HATCH from Utah, and Senator BENNETT from Utah.

The problem is, NASA is ignoring the will of Congress in already beginning to cancel the Constellation Program. That is not their right. They must follow the law, and this amendment intends to hold them to that. The amendment sends a clear message that there are no loopholes, exclusions, or other routes the agency can use to kill the program.

I say publicly here on the floor of the Senate, whether this amendment passes on this bill, whether this amendment passes in the coming weeks, the law of the land is this: fund the Constellation Program. NASA is on notice that it is their legal requirement to do so, that they should not cancel contracts, they should not tell contractors to stop working. They cannot do that until the Congress makes a change in the law, and to do so would be unlawful.

The ultimate determination on the future of the space program rests with Congress, not a budget proposal submitted by this administration or, in fact, any administration.

As candidate-Obama agreed, without Constellation, the United States will be relying on Russia for any manned space missions. The United States has led the world in space exploration since the early 1960s. We cannot, and we should not, cede this leadership to any other country. We must summon the same vision that guided President Kennedy whose vision put a man on the Moon at the end of the 1960s. He said: Why should we settle for anything less? To quote him:

We choose to go to the moon . . . because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win. . . .

It is my sincere hope we will adopt this amendment, if not on this bill, on another bill soon. I hope my colleagues and our President will also come to say we choose to continue to be the leader in space exploration to the Moon, to Mars, and planets beyond because the challenge is one we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one we intend to win.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

SPRING

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, "From winter, plague and pestilence, good Lord, deliver us!" wrote Thomas Nashe in 1600, in "Summer's Last Will and Testament," to which I add a hearty, "Amen!"

At last, this Saturday, March 20, spring arrives, both by calendar and weather, and we are all happier for it. Blue skies, warming breezes, and the faint blush of buds upon the trees—this year, especially, spring is a sight for sore eyes too long blinded by the glare of Sun upon sparkling snow. The cheerful chorus of springtime frogs is welcome music after the almost silent whisper of falling snowflakes.

This year in particular, spring seemed a long time coming. Rarely have we seen so much snow in West Virginia—storm after storm, flurry upon flurry, until roofs groaned under the weight and plows could find nowhere to push the drifts. Even children home from school day after day edged slowly from delight to cabin fever. And just when it seems we could not stand one more session with the snow shovel, we must now fear the flooding snowmelt, the menacing legacy of this epic winter.

In time to prevent our moods from mirroring, like our yards, in the mud, come the first bright petals of crocus and daffodil to give us hope. Their petals glow among the wet leaves and drab grasses of winter. The American poet, Amy Lowell, knew how daffodils could revive one's flagging spirits:

Thou yellow trumpeter of laggard Spring!
Thou herald of rich Summer's myriad flowers!

The climbing sun with new recovered powers
Does warm thee into being, through the ring
Of rich, brown earth he woos thee, makes
thee fling

Thy green shoots up, inheriting the dowers
Of bending sky and sudden, sweeping showers,

Till ripe and blossoming thou art a thing
To make all nature glad, thou art so gay;
To fill the lonely with a joy untold;
Nodding at every gust of wind to-day,
To-morrow jeweled with raindrops. Always
bold

To stand erect, full in the dazzling play
Of April's sun, for thou hast caught his gold.

As we all slowly unfurl from our winter burden of coats, scarves, hats, and boots, shedding them like the dark mulch of winter's leaves, we, too, rejoice in the colors of springtime. Our

petals may only be cheerful t-shirts or bright windbreakers, but what a welcome change from fleece and wool.

Warm weather will bring out walkers and gardeners and allow children to play in yards and parks, doing more to improve our outlooks, health, and waistlines than all the fitness reality shows we watch on television during the cold, dark months of winter.

I hope that many Americans will revive their flagging New Year's resolutions and take advantage of spring's surge of energy to spend more time outdoors. I hope that my fellow Senators will note the beauty of the blossoms and the greening of the city as they hurry between hearings and the Senate floor. There is much work that we need to do, to be sure, but a short moment spent in spring sunshine can only warm our hearts, put a smile on our faces, and expand our thinking.

Mr. President, as America celebrates the vernal equinox and return of spring to our winter-weary Nation, let us simply take a moment to heed the words of the ironically named poet, Robert Frost, in his poem, "A Prayer in Spring":

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers to-day;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY LUAU

• Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, my colleague, Senator DANIEL K. AKAKA, and I commend the Hawaiian students' club of Pacific University, Na Haumana O Hawaii, for their steadfast commitment to the preservation of the rich cultural heritage of Hawaii. For 50 proud years, its strong membership has championed educational opportunities to ensure the survival of a distinct history, beautiful language, and long-standing traditions. The story of our State is one of a strong native people who have persevered against forces that nearly extinguished their existence, of struggling immigrants whose hope sustained them while they toiled to achieve the American dream, and of a remote chain of islands who overcame obstacles to attain statehood in the 20th century. Hawaii began with a proud people and continues to serve as a home for proud people. Through the efforts of Na Haumana O Hawaii, those ancient stories and values upon which our island home is founded will endure for future generations to come.

The Annual Luau hosted and facilitated through the leadership of Pacific University shares and exemplifies the "aloha spirit." This event allows others to experience the unique qualities of Hawaiian culture in an atmosphere that encourages fellowship. We would like to express our appreciation to faculty, staff and students of Pacific University, Na Haumana O Hawaii, and the