

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Espallat
Esty (CT)
Evans
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Hastings
Heck
Higgins (NY)
Himes

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMERICAN LEADERSHIP IN SPACE TECHNOLOGY AND ADVANCED ROCKETRY ACT

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5345) to designate the Marshall Space Flight Center of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to provide leadership for the U.S. rocket propulsion industrial base, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5345

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 “American Leadership in Space Technology and Advanced Rocketry Act” or the “ALSTAR Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Non-military rocket propulsion is an enabling technology for our Nation’s future prosperous way of life.

(2) Non-military rocket propulsion technologies are critical to national security, intelligence gathering, communications, weather forecasting, navigation, communications, entertainment, land use, Earth observation, and scientific exploration.

(3) The non-military rocket propulsion industry is a source of high-quality jobs.

(4) Multiple Federal agencies and companies are involved in non-military rocket propulsion research, development, and manufacturing.

(5) Integration, coordination, and cooperation would strengthen the United States non-military rocket propulsion industrial base.

(6) Erosion of the non-military rocket propulsion industrial base would seriously impact national security, space exploration potential, and economic growth.

(7) The Marshall Space Flight Center has decades of experience working with other Government agencies and industry partners to study and coordinate these capabilities.

(8) The Marshall Space Flight Center has made historic and unique contributions—

(A) by bringing stakeholders together to work on non-military rocket propulsion industrial base sustainment;

(B) of technical expertise to key studies and review boards; and

(C) by consistently participating in interagency working groups to address non-military rocket propulsion issues.

SEC. 3. NON-MILITARY ROCKET PROPULSION LEADERSHIP.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Marshall Space Flight Center is the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s lead center for non-military rocket propulsion and is essential to sustaining and promoting U.S. leadership in non-military rocket propulsion and developing the next generation of non-military rocket propulsion capabilities.

(b) LEADERSHIP IN NON-MILITARY ROCKET PROPULSION.—The Marshall Space Flight Center shall provide national leadership in NASA in non-military rocket propulsion by—

(1) contributing to interagency coordination for the preservation of critical national non-military rocket propulsion capabilities;

(2) collaborating with industry, academia, and professional organizations to most effectively use national capabilities and resources;

(3) monitoring public- and private-sector non-military rocket propulsion activities to develop and promote a strong, healthy non-military rocket propulsion industrial base;

(4) facilitating technical solutions for existing and emerging non-military rocket propulsion challenges;

(5) supporting the development and refinement of non-military rocket propulsion for small satellites;

(6) evaluating and recommending, as appropriate, new non-military rocket propulsion technologies for further development; and

(7) providing information required by national decisionmakers so that policies and other instruments of the Government support the development and strengthening of the Nation’s non-military rocket propulsion capabilities throughout the 21st century.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5345, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as the Congressman for the Tennessee Valley of the State of Alabama, I am uniquely situated to appreciate the valuable contribution the Marshall Space Flight Center has made and continues to make to America’s rocket propulsion capabilities.

As a child growing up in Huntsville, Alabama, I well remember the 1960s as nearby Saturn V rocket engine tests shook the ground and rattled the windows. I also remember the great pride in America I felt the moment Neil Armstrong stepped on the Moon after leaving the Earth on one of our Saturn V rockets.

No doubt about it, developing and improving rocket propulsion is essential to America’s leadership in space exploration and national security.

It has been the Marshall Space Flight Center that has provided and continues to provide the cutting-edge expertise America needs in both solid and liquid rocket propulsion.

□ 1415

Over the last several years, Americans have witnessed a resurgence in the rocket propulsion industry. As traditional and emerging actors move forward, it is important that the Federal Government minimize expensive duplication and support healthy cooperation and communication between the private sector and the Federal Government to promote America’s robust rocket propulsion industry.

With President Trump’s establishment of Space Force as an independent

branch of the military, rocket propulsion is recognized as even more important to securing America’s future than ever before because America’s military relies heavily on its space assets—global positioning satellites being but one example—to protect our national security.

As Congress guides America’s national space policy, we must promote the robust rocket propulsion industrial base that is essential to our space presence.

My bill, H.R. 5345, the American Leadership in Space Technology and Advanced Rocketry Act of 2018, commonly known as the ALSTAR Act, helps ensure the long-term stability of the rocket propulsion industry through better coordination and collaboration between all relevant stakeholders, public and private.

Specifically, the ALSTAR Act formally designates Marshall Space Flight Center as NASA’s current and future lead center for rocket propulsion.

In addition, the ALSTAR Act directs Marshall to explore, develop, and mature new rocket propulsion technology in cooperation with partners across and outside of government. This new emphasis, while building on a strong foundation, helps to ensure that America remains at the forefront of space exploration.

Mr. Speaker, in the 1940s and 1950s, voyages to the Moon were thought impossible, but America rose to the challenge and overcame the impossible. Today, America must, once again, challenge itself to reach far beyond its limits.

Through our increased attention, focus, and support of utilization of space and the exploration of deep space, we too can overcome the impossible and help inspire the next generation of Americans to look to the stars and go where no one has gone before.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I support a robust and innovative space industry. I also believe that it is very important that we leverage the investment taxpayers have allowed the Nation to make in its facilities and workforce.

The bill before us today that is known as H.R. 5345, also known as the American Leadership in Space Technology and Advanced Rocketry Act, recognizes the rocket propulsion work of the Marshall Space Flight Center and that center’s role in helping to develop the next generation of rocket propulsion capabilities. The Marshall Space Flight Center has a long and storied history in rocket development dating back to the huge Saturn V rockets that powered our astronauts to the Moon. That tradition continues to this day.

Mr. Speaker, I support moving this bill out of the House floor, and I reserve the balance of my time.