

at near-space altitudes, to the maximum extent practicable, as part of a diverse set of capabilities to effectively and efficiently meet the goals of the Administration.

SEC. 815. PRESIDENT'S SPACE ADVISORY BOARD.

Section 121 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1991 (Public Law 101-611; 51 U.S.C. 20111 note) is amended—

- (1) in the section heading, by striking “USERS’ ADVISORY GROUP” and inserting “PRESIDENT’S SPACE ADVISORY BOARD”; and
- (2) by striking “Users’ Advisory Group” each place it appears and inserting “President’s Space Advisory Board.”

SEC. 816. INITIATIVE ON TECHNOLOGIES FOR NOISE AND EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS.

(a) INITIATIVE REQUIRED.—Section 40112 of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

- (1) by redesignating subsections (b) through (f) as subsections (c) through (g), respectively; and

- (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection (b):

“(b) TECHNOLOGIES FOR NOISE AND EMISSIONS REDUCTION.—

“(1) INITIATIVE REQUIRED.—The Administrator shall establish an initiative to build upon and accelerate previous or ongoing work to develop and demonstrate new technologies, including systems architecture, components, or integration of systems and airframe structures, in electric aircraft propulsion concepts that are capable of substantially reducing both emissions and noise from aircraft.

“(2) APPROACH.—In carrying out the initiative, the Administrator shall do the following:

“(A) Continue and expand work of the Administration on research, development, and demonstration of electric aircraft concepts, and the integration of such concepts.

“(B) To the extent practicable, work with multiple partners, including small businesses and new entrants, on research and development activities related to transport category aircraft.

“(C) Provide guidance to the Federal Aviation Administration on technologies developed and tested pursuant to the initiative.”.

(b) REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter as a part of the Administrator’s budget submission, the Administrator shall submit a report to the appropriate committee of Congress on the progress of the work under the initiative required by subsection (b) of section 40112 of title 51, United States Code (as amended by subsection (a) of this section), including an updated, anticipated timeframe for aircraft entering into service that produce 50 percent less noise and emissions than the highest performing aircraft in service as of December 31, 2019.

SEC. 817. REMEDIATION OF SITES CONTAMINATED WITH TRICHLOROETHYLENE.

(a) IDENTIFICATION OF SITES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall identify sites of the Administration contaminated with trichloroethylene.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes—

- (1) the recommendations of the Administrator for remediating the sites identified under subsection (a) during the 5-year period beginning on the date of the report; and

- (2) an estimate of the financial resources necessary to implement those recommendations.

SEC. 818. REPORT ON MERITS AND OPTIONS FOR ESTABLISHING AN INSTITUTE RELATING TO SPACE RESOURCES.

(a) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the merits of, and options for, establishing an institute relating to space resources to advance the objectives of NASA in maintaining United States preeminence in space described in paragraph (3).

(2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include an assessment by the Administrator as to whether—

(A) a virtual or physical institute relating to space resources is most cost effective and appropriate; and

(B) partnering with institutions of higher education and the aerospace industry, and the extractive industry as appropriate, would be effective in increasing information available to such an institute with respect to advancing the objectives described in paragraph (3).

(3) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives described in this paragraph are the following:

(A) Identifying, developing, and distributing space resources, including by encouraging the development of foundational science and technology.

(B) Reducing the technological risks associated with identifying, developing, and distributing space resources.

(C) Developing options for using space resources—

(i) to support current and future space architectures, programs, and missions; and

(ii) to enable architectures, programs, and missions that would not otherwise be possible.

(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(A) EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY.—The term “extractive industry” means a company or individual involved in the process of extracting (including mining, quarrying, drilling, and dredging) space resources.

(B) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(C) SPACE RESOURCE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The term “space resource” means an abiotic resource in situ in outer space.

(ii) INCLUSIONS.—The term “space resource” includes a raw material, a natural material, and an energy source.

SEC. 819. REPORT ON ESTABLISHING CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR SPACE WEATHER TECHNOLOGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report assessing the potential benefits of establishing a NASA center of excellence for space weather technology.

(b) GEOGRAPHIC CONSIDERATIONS.—In the report required by subsection (a), the Administrator shall consider the benefits of establishing the center of excellence described in that subsection in a geographic area—

(1) in close proximity to—

(A) significant government-funded space weather research activities; and

(B) institutions of higher education; and

(2) where NASA may have been previously underrepresented.

SEC. 820. REVIEW ON PREFERENCE FOR DOMESTIC SUPPLIERS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the Sense of Congress that the Administration should, to the maximum extent practicable and with due consideration of foreign policy goals and obligations under Federal law—

(1) use domestic suppliers of goods and services; and

(2) ensure compliance with the Federal acquisition regulations, including subcontract flow-down provisions.

(b) REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall undertake a comprehensive review of the domestic supplier preferences of the Administration and the obligations of the Administration under the Federal acquisition regulations to ensure compliance, particularly with respect to Federal acquisition regulations provisions that apply to foreign-based subcontractors.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The review under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an assessment as to whether the Administration has provided funding for infrastructure of a foreign-owned company or State-sponsored entity in recent years; and

(B) a review of any impact such funding has had on domestic service providers.

(c) REPORT.—The Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the results of the review.

SEC. 821. REPORT ON UTILIZATION OF COMMERCIAL SPACEPORTS LICENSED BY FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the benefits of increased utilization of commercial spaceports licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration for NASA civil space missions and operations.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description and assessment of current utilization of commercial spaceports licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration for NASA civil space missions and operations.

(2) A description and assessment of the benefits of increased utilization of such spaceports for such missions and operations.

(3) A description and assessment of the steps necessary to achieve increased utilization of such spaceports for such missions and operations.

SEC. 822. ACTIVE ORBITAL DEBRIS MITIGATION.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) orbital debris, particularly in low-Earth orbit, poses a hazard to NASA missions, particularly human spaceflight; and

(2) progress has been made on the development of guidelines for long-term space sustainability through the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The Administrator should—

(1) ensure the policies and standard practices of NASA meet or exceed international guidelines for spaceflight safety; and

(2) support the development of orbital debris mitigation technologies through continued research and development of concepts.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the status of implementing subsection (b).

SEC. 823. STUDY ON COMMERCIAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) enhancing the ability of researchers to conduct and interact with experiments while in flight would make huge advancements in the overall profitability of conducting research on suborbit and low-Earth orbit payloads; and

(2) current NASA communications do not allow for real-time data collection, observation, or transmission of information.

(b) STUDY.—The Administrator shall conduct a study on the feasibility, impact, and cost of using commercial communications programs services for suborbital flight programs and low-Earth orbit research.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to Congress and make publicly available a report that describes the results of the study conducted under subsection (b).

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 107.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the joint resolution by title for the information of the Senate.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 107) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

Mr. SANDERS. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, last week I indicated that it would be unacceptable for the Senate to recess for the Christmas holidays without providing substantial direct payments to the working families of our country and to their children.

Majority Leader McConnell and I do not agree on much, but as I understand it, we are in agreement on at least one point, and that is that the Senate cannot go home until the COVID emergency relief bill is passed. The fact that the majority leader intends to keep the Senate in session this weekend to continue work on the COVID relief package is the correct decision.

But let me, at this time, be as clear as I can be. Senator JOSH HAWLEY, a Republican from Missouri, and I have been working together to make certain that the working families of this country have a direct payment of \$1,200 for adults and \$2,400 for couples and \$500 for each of their children. Let me also be absolutely clear that I will object to any attempt by the Senate to pass an omnibus appropriations bill and leave town before passing a COVID relief bill with substantial direct payments going to working people.

The truth is that the working families of this country today are probably in a worse economic condition than at any time since the Great Depression. Millions of people are unable to pay their rent, and they are worried about being evicted. Hunger is, literally, at the highest level that it has been in

several decades. And in the midst of this terrible, terrible pandemic, we have tens of millions of people who cannot afford to go to a doctor. That is unacceptable.

I would say to my colleagues, let's get this package passed. Let's make certain that we have direct payments to working families of this country, and with that I would withdraw my objection.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The joint resolution was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the joint resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the joint resolution, the joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 107) was passed.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—TRIBUTE TO RETIRING MEMBERS OF THE 116TH CONGRESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be printed as a Senate document a compilation of materials from the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in tribute to retiring Members of the 116th Congress and that Members have until Monday, December 21, to submit such tributes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BARASSO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as in executive session, with respect to the Somers nomination, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader and the junior Senator from North Carolina be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions on December 18 and 19, 2020.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROPER AND REIMBURSED CARE FOR NATIVE VETERANS ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6237 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6237) to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to clarify the requirement of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense to reimburse the Indian Health Service for certain health care services.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 6237) was passed.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORIZING THE SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA TO LEASE OR TRANSFER CERTAIN LAND

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 4079 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4079) to authorize the Seminole Tribe of Florida to lease or transfer certain land, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 4079) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 4079

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,