

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1641

To direct the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to plan to return to the Moon and develop a sustained human presence on the Moon.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 15, 2011

Mr. POSEY (for himself, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. WOLF, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. OLSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To direct the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to plan to return to the Moon and develop a sustained human presence on the Moon.

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 “Reasserting American
5 Leadership in Space Act” or the “REAL Space Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The 109th Congress passed the National
9 Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization

1 Act of 2005 overwhelmingly, establishing as the Na-
2 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration’s pri-
3 ority human space flight goal: “To develop a sus-
4 tained human presence on the Moon . . . to promote
5 exploration, commerce, science, and United States
6 preeminence in space as a stepping stone for the fu-
7 ture exploration of Mars and other destinations.”.

8 (2) The 110th Congress overwhelmingly re-
9 affirmed the vision of returning to the Moon as an
10 integral part of exploring further into our solar sys-
11 tem through the passage of the National Aero-
12 nautics and Space Administration Authorization Act
13 of 2008, expressing support for “the broad goals of
14 the space exploration policy of the United States, in-
15 cluding the eventual return to and exploration of the
16 Moon and other destinations in the solar system and
17 the important national imperative of independent ac-
18 cess to space”.

19 (3) The 111th Congress, in the National Aero-
20 nautics and Space Administration Authorization Act
21 of 2010, called for the development of a heavy lift
22 capability of greater than 130 metric tons consisting
23 of the Space Launch System (SLS) and Multi-Pur-
24 pose Crew Vehicle (MPCV) to pursue exploration,
25 yet fell short on explicitly stating a clear destination.

1 (4) The 112th Congress has reaffirmed this
2 commitment to the development of a heavy lift capa-
3 bility.

4 (5) A sustained human presence on the Moon
5 will allow astronauts and researchers the oppor-
6 tunity to leverage new technologies in addressing the
7 challenges of sustaining life on another celestial
8 body, lessons which are necessary and applicable as
9 we explore further into our solar system, to Mars
10 and beyond.

11 (6) A sustained human presence on the Moon
12 would once again inspire and engage public interest
13 in our space program, motivating young people to
14 excel in the vital subjects of math and science, sub-
15 jects in which American students lag behind our
16 international competitors.

17 (7) A sustained human presence on the Moon
18 would challenge American industry to continue to
19 develop technologies that not only enhance our ex-
20 ploration programs but can be applied across all dis-
21 ciplines of science.

22 (8) The commercial applications of space tech-
23 nologies have had tens of billions of dollars in eco-
24 nomic impact, including products from semiconduc-

1 tors and aircraft controls to scratch-resistant lenses
2 and water purification systems.

3 (9) The healthcare technologies derived from
4 our space program, such as the portable x-ray ma-
5 chine, the MRI, advanced life-saving diagnostics,
6 and the implantable heart aid, have saved and im-
7 proved countless lives.

8 (10) Space is the world's ultimate high ground,
9 returning to the Moon and reinvigorating our human
10 space flight program is a matter of national security.

11 (11) Technologies developed and sustained by
12 the National Aeronautics and Space Administra-
13 tion's human space flight program, such as liquid
14 and solid rocket propulsion, environmental and life
15 support systems, and communications, navigation,
16 and control systems are important to our military.

17 (12) China and Russia, understanding the eco-
18 nomic and strategic importance of human space
19 flight, have declared their intentions of colonizing
20 the Moon and are advancing their lunar exploration
21 plans.

22 (13) It is strategically important that the
23 United States possess and maintain the capabilities
24 of unfettered operation in the space domain, and not
25 cede the space domain to other nations.

1 **SEC. 3. MISSION.**

2 In accordance with the National Aeronautics and
3 Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005, which
4 established as the National Aeronautics and Space Admin-
5 istration’s priority goal: “To develop a sustained human
6 presence on the Moon . . . to promote exploration, com-
7 merce, science, and United States preeminence in space
8 as a stepping stone for the future exploration of Mars and
9 other destinations.”, and in accordance with the National
10 Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act
11 of 2008, which endorsed “the broad goals of the space ex-
12 ploration policy of the United States, including the even-
13 tual return to and exploration of the Moon and other des-
14 tinations in the solar system and the important national
15 imperative of independent access to space”, the National
16 Aeronautics and Space Administration shall plan to return
17 to the Moon by 2022 and develop a sustained human pres-
18 ence on the Moon, in order to promote exploration, com-
19 merce, science, and United States preeminence in space
20 as a stepping stone for the future exploration of Mars and
21 other destinations. The budget requests and expenditures
22 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration
23 shall be consistent with achieving this goal.

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