

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4152

To direct the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Secretary of Commerce to submit to Congress a report on the merits of, and options for, establishing an institute relating to space resources, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 15, 2023

Ms. CARAVEO (for herself, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. PETTERSEN, and Mr. NEGUSE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Secretary of Commerce to submit to Congress a report on the merits of, and options for, establishing an institute relating to space resources, and for other purposes.

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 “Space Resources Insti-
5 tute Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REPORT ON MERITS AND OPTIONS FOR ESTAB-**
2 **LISHING AN INSTITUTE RELATING TO SPACE**
3 **RESOURCES.**

4 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
5 of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator and Sec-
6 retary shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional
7 committees a report on the merits of, and options for, es-
8 tablishing an institute relating to space resources to ad-
9 vance the objectives of NASA and the Department in
10 maintaining United States preeminence in space. Such ob-
11 jectives shall include the following:

12 (1) Identifying, developing, and distributing
13 space resources, including by encouraging the devel-
14 opment of foundational science and technology.

15 (2) Reducing the technological risks associated
16 with identifying, developing, and distributing space
17 resources.

18 (3) Developing options for using space re-
19 sources to—

20 (A) support current and future space ar-
21 chitectures, programs, and missions; and

22 (B) enable such architectures, programs,
23 and missions that would not otherwise be pos-
24 sible.

1 (b) ADDITIONAL MATTERS.—The report required
2 under subsection (a) shall also include the following as-
3 sessments of the Administrator and the Secretary:

4 (1) Whether a virtual or physical institute relat-
5 ing to space resources is most cost effective and ap-
6 propriate.

7 (2) Whether partnering with institutions of
8 higher education and the aerospace industry, and
9 the extractive industry as appropriate, would be ef-
10 fective in increasing information available to the in-
11 stitute with respect to advancing the objectives de-
12 scribed in subsection (a).

13 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
15 trator” means the Administrator of NASA.

16 (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
17 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
18 mittees” means—

19 (A) the Committee on Science, Space, and
20 Technology of the House of Representatives;
21 and

22 (B) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
23 and Transportation of the Senate.

24 (3) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”
25 means the Department of Commerce.

1 (4) EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY.—The term “ex-
2 tractive industry” means companies and individuals
3 involved in the processes of extracting, including
4 mining, quarrying, drilling, and dredging, raw, nat-
5 ural materials or energy sources.

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

10 (6) NASA.—The term “NASA” means the Na-
11 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration.

12 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
13 the Secretary of Commerce.

14 (8) SPACE RESOURCE.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “space re-
16 source” means an abiotic resource in situ in
17 outer space.

18 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “space re-
19 source” includes a raw, natural material or en-
20 ergy source.

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