FLOOR STATEMENT

**Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)**

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

H.R. 1159 - United States and Israel Space Cooperation Act

December 18, 2017

I rise in support of H.R. 1159, the “United States and Israel Space Cooperation Act”.

The cooperation between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Israel Space Agency is just one example of peaceful international cooperation that has been a hallmark of NASA’s approach since its creation in 1958.

In fact, when Congress passed NASA’s founding legislation, the Space Act of 1958, one of the primary objectives established for the agency was *“(7) Cooperation by the United States with other nations and groups of nations in work done pursuant to this Act and in the peaceful application of the results thereof*;”.

NASA has followed this objective over the years in a variety of ways. Since its establishment in 1958, NASA has entered into over 5,000 original agreements with international entities, and currently NASA has over 800 active cooperative agreements across a range of disciplines with over 120 countries and international organizations.

These international partnerships have led to a range of benefits in scientific advancement, access to scientific data, partnering in exploration, and sharing the costs and risks of space missions.

NASA has had a long and fruitful relationship with the country of Israel, and that cooperative relationship continues to this day. Current activities with Israel include the involvement of almost 200 Israeli schools in the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) educational project; collaboration on atmospheric and climate research; and numerical cloud modeling, among other activities.

I think it is also fitting to remember that the crew for the ill-fated Space Shuttle *Columbia* mission, STS-107, included Israeli Astronaut, Ilan (E-Lan) Ramon, who, along with the entire STS-107 crew, tragically perished with the loss of the Space Shuttle orbiter on February 1, 2003.  Israel has shared in the great achievements of NASA as well as greats losses that have paved the way for future space explorers. Their sacrifice will be held in our hearts as we work to further space exploration for the benefits of humankind.

I want to thank the sponsor of this legislation, Mr. Kilmer for introducing this bill.

Thank you, and I reserve the balance of my time.