

OPENING STATEMENT

Ranking Member Donna F. Edwards (D-MD)
Subcommittee on Space
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

Full Committee Markup

H.R. 4412, the “National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2014”

April 29, 2014

Mr. Chairman, it has been said that a Nation’s greatness is embodied in its space program. In these uncertain times, we are fortunate to have the talented and dedicated men and women who make up the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as well as its partners in private industry and researchers in academia.

Despite challenging funding levels over the past few years, they have continued to persevere. Even in these challenging times, NASA’s accomplishments in human spaceflight, space science, aeronautics research, and space technology are the envy of other nations and a source of inspiration for all our citizens.

Congress can help NASA to maintain its position of preeminence. Indeed, Congress has a critical role in providing not only the resources needed to meet the expectations of a multi-mission agency, but also in establishing a clear vision for NASA.

We took an important first step in our Subcommittee markup three weeks ago. I am proud of the Subcommittee-passed 2014 Authorization Act, particularly the provision requiring NASA to develop a Human Exploration Roadmap, a Roadmap that will enable the agency to define the specific capabilities and technologies needed to extend human presence to the surface of Mars, and the sets and sequences of missions required to demonstrate such capabilities and technologies.

Mr. Chairman, I was pleased that we achieved that markup milestone in a bipartisan manner with legislation covering a sizeable amount of NASA’s roles and responsibilities. Moreover, I indicated that I was fully aware that we still had more work to do in a number of important areas.

I look forward to continuing our work on this authorization in a bipartisan fashion at today’s full Committee markup.