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(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To require the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to investigate and promote the exploration and development of space leading to human settlements beyond Earth, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. ROHRABACHER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to investigate and promote the exploration and development of space leading to human settlements beyond Earth, 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 Exploration, De-
5 velopment, and Settlement Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

1 (1) America’s activities in space have challenged
2 mankind to travel beyond planet Earth and have
3 provided us the opportunity to expand human knowl-
4 edge, to extend the limits of human consciousness,
5 and to improve the human condition;

6 (2) Section 217(a) of the National Aeronautics
7 and Space Administration Authorization Act, Fiscal
8 Year 1989 states, “The Congress declares that the
9 extension of human life beyond Earth’s atmosphere,
10 leading ultimately to the establishment of space set-
11 tlements, will fulfill the purposes of advancing
12 science, exploration, and development and will en-
13 hance the general welfare.”;

14 (3) numerous independent commissions, char-
15 tered by Congress or established by the President,
16 have declared space settlements as a long-range ob-
17 jective of the American space program;

18 (4) exploring, developing, and settling new
19 physical areas are parts of our heritage and will
20 most assuredly be parts of our future;

21 (5) United States space policy requires long-
22 range goals and strategic direction in order to pro-
23 vide context for near-term space projects and pro-
24 grams;

1 (6) increasing awareness of planetary-scale exis-
2 tential risks to human civilization and the survival of
3 the species make it prudent to develop a means to
4 diversify the human population beyond Earth;

5 (7) the development of space will create new
6 jobs, catalyze new industries, accelerate innovation
7 and new technologies, and enable America to tap
8 vast new resources that will generate new wealth,
9 enhance national security, and provide Americans
10 with new and limitless opportunities;

11 (8) the establishment of space settlements will
12 inspire generations of future Americans;

13 (9) the human settlement of space is fully con-
14 sistent with the policies and objectives articulated in
15 the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958;
16 and

17 (10) the adoption of a “pioneering” orientation
18 by the National Aeronautics and Space Administra-
19 tion is an essential step toward enabling the estab-
20 lishment of space settlements.

21 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS**
22 **AND SPACE ACT.**

23 (a) DECLARATION OF POLICY AND PURPOSE.—Sec-
24 tion 20102 of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (h)
2 as subsections (e) through (i), respectively;

3 (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
4 lowing new subsection:

5 “(d) EXPLORATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND SETTLE-
6 MENT OF SPACE.—The Congress declares that expanding
7 permanent human presence beyond low-Earth orbit in a
8 way that enables human settlement and a thriving space
9 economy will enhance the general welfare of the United
10 States and requires the Administration to encourage and
11 support the development of permanent space settle-
12 ments.”;

13 (3) in subsection (e), as so redesignated by
14 paragraph (1) of this subsection, by inserting after
15 paragraph (9) the following new paragraph:

16 “(10) The expansion of permanent human pres-
17 ence beyond low-Earth orbit in a way that enables
18 human settlement and a thriving space economy.”;

19 and

20 (4) in subsection (i), as so redesignated by
21 paragraph (1) of this subsection, by striking “to
22 (g)” and inserting in lieu thereof “to (h)”.

23 (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 20103 of title 51, United
24 States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by inserting, in paragraph (1)(D), “and de-
2 velopment” after “exploration”; and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following new
4 paragraph:

5 “(3) **SPACE SETTLEMENT.**—The term ‘space
6 settlement’ means any community of humans living
7 beyond Earth’s atmosphere that is able to economi-
8 cally sustain its population through a neutral or
9 positive balance of trade of goods and services, and
10 is able to expand its habitable real estate as need
11 and desire of the community may warrant and inter-
12 national law permits.”.

13 **SEC. 4. SPACE SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES.**

14 (a) **SPACE DEVELOPMENT AND SETTLEMENT INFOR-**
15 **MATION.**—Consistent with the national security interests
16 of the United States, the National Aeronautics and Space
17 Administration shall, in close cooperation with other ap-
18 propriate agencies, the private sector, academia, and the
19 international community, obtain, produce, and provide in-
20 formation relating to all issues important for the develop-
21 ment of a thriving space economy and the development
22 and establishment of human space settlements.

23 (b) **REPORT.**—Once every two years after the date
24 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit
25 a report to the President, the Committee on Science,

1 Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives,
2 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
3 tation of the Senate which describes the progress made
4 toward expanding permanent human presence beyond low-
5 Earth orbit in a way that enables human settlement and
6 a thriving space economy.

7 (c) METRICS.—The National Aeronautics and Space
8 Administration shall, as part of its first report as required
9 by subsection (b), include one or more metrics by which
10 to determine progress made toward space settlement
11 against which all subsequent reports as required by sub-
12 section (b) shall be compared. The metrics may be revised
13 as appropriate over time to reflect emerging technological,
14 economic, and other trends.

15 **SEC. 5. REVIEW OF NATIONAL SPACE POLICY AS IT MAY RE-**
16 **LATE TO SPACE SETTLEMENT AND A THRIV-**
17 **ING SPACE ECONOMY.**

18 It is the sense of Congress that the President should
19 conduct a review of national space policy to incorporate
20 as a long term goal of the human spaceflight and explo-
21 ration program to expand human presence beyond low-
22 Earth orbit in a way that will enable human settlement
23 and a thriving space economy.