

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 870

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

FEBRUARY 3, 2017

Mr. POSEY (for himself, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. BABIN) 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 super heavy
22 lift capability of greater than 130 metric tons con-
23 sisting of the Space Launch System (SLS) and
24 Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle (MPCV) to pur-

1 sue exploration, yet fell short on explicitly stating a
2 clear destination.

3 (4) The 112th, 113th, and 114th Congresses
4 have reaffirmed this commitment to the development
5 of a super heavy lift capability and exploration
6 spacecraft in authorization and appropriations bills.

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

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

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

1 (8) The commercial applications of space tech-
2 nologies have had tens of billions of dollars in eco-
3 nomic impact, including products from semiconduc-
4 tors and aircraft controls to scratch-resistant lenses
5 and water purification systems.

6 (9) There is growing commercial interest among
7 United States companies in developing systems, like
8 landers, habitats and surveying technology, as part
9 of a National Aeronautics and Space Administra-
10 tion-led return to the Moon.

11 (10) The healthcare technologies derived from
12 our space program, such as the portable x-ray ma-
13 chine, the MRI, advanced life-saving diagnostics,
14 and the implantable heart aid, have saved and im-
15 proved countless lives.

16 (11) Space is the world's ultimate high ground,
17 and returning to the Moon and reinvigorating our
18 human space flight program is a matter of national
19 security.

20 (12) Technologies developed and sustained by
21 the National Aeronautics and Space Administra-
22 tion's human space flight program, such as liquid
23 and solid rocket propulsion, environmental and life
24 support systems, and communications, navigation,
25 and control systems are important to our military.

1 (13) China and Russia, understanding the eco-
2 nomic and strategic importance of human space
3 flight, have declared their intentions of colonizing
4 the Moon and are advancing their lunar exploration
5 plans.

6 (14) It is strategically important that the
7 United States possess and maintain the capabilities
8 of unfettered operation in the cislunar space domain,
9 and not cede this domain to other nations.

10 **SEC. 3. MISSION.**

11 In accordance with the National Aeronautics and
12 Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005, which
13 established as the National Aeronautics and Space Admin-
14 istration’s priority goal: “To develop a sustained human
15 presence on the Moon . . . to promote exploration, com-
16 merce, science, and United States preeminence in space
17 as a stepping stone for the future exploration of Mars and
18 other destinations”, and in accordance with the National
19 Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act
20 of 2008, which endorsed “the broad goals of the space ex-
21 ploration policy of the United States, including the even-
22 tual return to and exploration of the Moon and other des-
23 tinations in the solar system and the important national
24 imperative of independent access to space”, the National
25 Aeronautics and Space Administration shall plan to return

1 to the Moon by 2023 and develop a sustained human pres-
2 ence on the Moon, in order to promote exploration, com-
3 merce, science, and United States preeminence in space
4 as a stepping stone for the future exploration of Mars and
5 other destinations. The budget requests and expenditures
6 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration
7 shall be consistent with achieving this goal.

