



January 29, 2020

Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, Chair  
House Committee on Science, Space,  
and Technology  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Frank D. Lucas, Ranking Member  
House Committee on Science, Space,  
and Technology  
H2-394 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Kendra Horn, Chair  
Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics  
House Committee on Science, Space,  
and Technology  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Brian Babin, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics  
House Committee on Science, Space,  
and Technology  
H2-394 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Johnson, Ranking Member Lucas, Chairwoman Horn, and Ranking Member Babin:

The Aerospace Industries Association (AIA), the voice of the American aerospace and defense industry representing over 300 leading manufacturers and suppliers that support more than 2.5 million U.S. workers, is grateful for the time and energy you and your staff put into developing the bipartisan bill before you today, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2020 (H.R. 5666).

The House Science, Space, and Technology Committee's Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics mark-up of this bipartisan bill, supported by both the Chairwomen and Ranking Members of both the Committee and Subcommittee, demonstrates your commitment to U.S. innovation and achievement by authorizing NASA funding at historically high levels, ensuring American preeminence in space. However, there are concerns we look forward to working with Congress on as the bill proceeds through the legislative process.

AIA supports the bill's goal of setting the stage for human exploration to the Moon and Mars paired with a strong and robust aeronautics program, science portfolio, space technology program and STEM workforce of tomorrow.

Of note, AIA commends the forward leaning positions taken on:

- ❖ Authorizing a long-term Moon and Mars human exploration program and supporting continuous U.S. human presence in space;
- ❖ Authorizing the Space Launch System and Orion spacecraft with concurrent development of the Exploration Upper Stage;

- ❖ Aeronautics investments for the future of aviation, including subsonic and supersonic planes, sustainable fuels, electric propulsion, hypersonics, and more;
- ❖ A healthy science portfolio to include the launch of the James Webb Space Telescope and WFIRST, continued science missions leveraging small satellites, and continued suborbital research;
- ❖ Future science missions prioritizing the consensus-based decadal survey process;
- ❖ An independent space technology mission directorate supporting advanced propulsion and other game changing technologies;
- ❖ Commitment to space communications needs now and well into the future, including looking to mitigate against threats to electromagnetic spectrum use; and,
- ❖ Supporting an independent and robust STEM program at NASA.

While we fully support the bill's intent to put NASA on solid footing and with a bipartisan continuity of purpose for the next decade or more, there are also opportunities for continued and new partnerships with commercial and international entities.

We ask the Subcommittee to address the following:

- ❖ Authorize accelerated lunar landing timeframe by 2024;
- ❖ Authorize Gateway for both lunar and Mars missions, with U.S. industry providing the key segments necessary for NASA missions, including PPE, habitat, airlock, and logistics module, while leveraging proven International Space Station (ISS) platforms and systems;
- ❖ Authorize extension and utilization of the ISS to 2030 for both civil and commercial U.S. space activities, affirming it is in the national and economic interests of the U.S. to maintain a continuous human presence in low Earth orbit;
- ❖ Remove crew and cargo transportation costs from the ISS Independent Cost Estimate report requirement as it would skew any report outcome. Instead, we recommend the report have crew and cargo transportation costs as an auxiliary reporting-line, giving the U.S. Congress a more accurate analysis of ISS operation costs and thus its return on investment to the U.S. taxpayer;
- ❖ Authorize Exploration Space Suits partnership with industry-proven design, development, and manufacturing suppliers as they provide the expertise that NASA should and must take advantage of for both the benefit of our future U.S. astronauts and for the benefit of the U.S. taxpayer;
- ❖ Authorize lunar surface activities to ensure continued technology research and development outside of the human exploration mission while engaging U.S. industry and international partners;
- ❖ Authorize extension of the Iran, North Korea, and Syria Nonproliferation Act (INKSNA) to at least 2028. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 (P.L. 116-93) extended INKSNA to 2025;
- ❖ Authorize programs to enable robust small satellite exploration, research, and science in low Earth orbit, cis-lunar space, and beyond, leveraging emerging commercial Venture Class launch vehicles;
- ❖ Study how programs utilizing suborbital spacecraft, such as the Flight Opportunities Program, can be expanded and enhanced to include science and education payloads and

opportunities for human-tended research, and reporting on the authorities needed and pathways toward enabling these;

- ❖ Leveraging U.S. industry capabilities and flight platforms for hypersonics research, development, and testing; and,
- ❖ Expand aeronautics investments for the future of aviation with a focus on X-plane demonstrators for subsonic and supersonic planes, sustainable fuels, and hybrid-electric propulsion to enhance our industrial base and sustain our favorable balance of trade position.

AIA and our member companies thank you for your leadership in introducing H.R. 5666. We look forward to continuing to work with you as H.R. 5666 advances through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tim McClees". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Tim McClees  
Vice President of Legislative Affairs  
Aerospace Industries Association