



COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY
Lamar Smith, Chairman

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Statement from Lamar Smith (R-Texas)

Full Committee Markup

Chairman Smith: Today we meet to consider three bills.

First, we will consider two space bills. Together, the two bills help ensure that America remains competitive in space. Both bills are the product of bipartisan consultation between the majority and minority members and staff.

The first space bill is H.R. 5345, the American Leadership in Space Technology and Advanced Rocketry Act. This bipartisan legislation, sponsored by Space Subcommittee Vice Chair Mo Brooks, and cosponsored by Rep. Ed Perlmutter, directs the Marshall Space Flight Center to provide national leadership in rocket propulsion and support the development of new and emerging technologies related to rocket propulsion.

Rocket propulsion is the foundation for everything America does in space from launching satellites that help us forecast the weather and communicate around the world to exploration missions that reach out far into the solar system and beyond. The Marshall Space Flight Center's home of Huntsville, Alabama, has been at the center of rocket propulsion since the establishment of Army rocket research and development activities at the Redstone Arsenal in 1950.

Marshall's expertise supports the national effort to keep our rocket propulsion industrial base vibrant and healthy and ensures that America stays at the forefront of rocket propulsion technology.

The next bill is H.R. 5346, the Commercial Space Support Vehicle Act. This bipartisan legislation, sponsored by Rep. Bill Posey and cosponsored by Rep. Al Lawson, authorizes the secretary of transportation to license hybrid launch vehicles to provide space support flights such as crew and space flight participant training.

The Trump administration, under the direction of the vice president and the National Space Council, has tasked the secretary of transportation to reform commercial space launch regulations by March 1, 2019.

The bill instructs the transportation secretary to consult with the commercial space industry prior to issuing the notice of proposed rulemaking and to issue space support vehicle licensing regulations by March 1, 2019.

The intent of this provision is to make these new commercial space support vehicle licenses part of this reform effort.

I want to thank this bill's sponsor, Rep. Bill Posey, for his long-standing support of the commercial space industry and for his persistence on this space commerce regulatory reform effort.

The final bill is H.R. 5086, the Innovators to Entrepreneurs Act. The bill extends the National Science Foundation's Innovation Corps (I-Corps) program, which trains and prepares scientists and engineers to convert their research results into entrepreneurial opportunities.

H.R. 5086 expands who is eligible to participate in I-Corps courses, allowing Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer grants to be used to cover I-Corps training expenses.

The bill also authorizes a new I-Corps course that teaches skills including company organization, attracting investors and hiring.

I thank Rep. Daniel Webster and Research and Technology Subcommittee Ranking Member Dan Lipinski for their work on this legislation.

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