

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 7273
OFFERED BY MR. WHITESIDES OF CALIFORNIA

Add at the end of title VI the following:

1 **SEC. 622. REAFFIRMING THE MISSION OF THE PLANETARY**
2 **SCIENCE DIVISION OF NASA.**

3 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
4 gress that—

5 (1) the Planetary Science Division of NASA
6 plays a critical role in—

7 (A) advancing the scientific understanding
8 in the United States of the solar system; and

9 (B) establishing United States leadership
10 in deep space;

11 (2) the adversaries of the United States, and
12 strategic competitors, have laid out ambitious plans
13 and allocated significant resources to conduct robotic
14 planetary science missions across the solar system;

15 (3) maintaining United States preeminence in
16 planetary exploration is essential to national inter-
17 ests;

18 (4) planetary science research and missions ad-
19 vance the scientific understanding of the solar sys-
20 tem and the place of humans in it, while also ad-

1 vancing the functionality and operations of space-
2 craft, technological advances, and the United States
3 science and technology workforce;

4 (5) the Discovery, New Frontiers, and Flagship
5 class missions allow NASA to fund a range of mis-
6 sions that vary in size, cost, and complexity, and
7 maintaining balance across these mission classes al-
8 lows for a broad scope of scientific discoveries and
9 technological advances;

10 (6) competitively-selected principal investigator-
11 led missions in the Discovery and New Frontiers
12 programs are essential to maintaining a robust pipe-
13 line of scientific talent, enabling innovative mission
14 concepts, and ensuring broad community participa-
15 tion in planetary exploration;

16 (7) the irreplaceable planetary science missions
17 in primary and extended operations across the solar
18 system continue to enable significant scientific
19 breakthroughs and provide ongoing value to the
20 United States taxpayer; and

21 (8) the Administrator should set planetary
22 science priorities by following the recommendations
23 and guidance provided by the scientific community
24 through the decadal surveys of the National Acad-
25 emies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

1 (b) MISSION PRIORITIES REAFFIRMATION.—Con-
2 gress reaffirms the requirements under section 502(b)(1)
3 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration
4 Transition Authorization Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–
5 10; 51 U.S.C. 20301 note) with respect to the following:

6 (1) The Administrator shall ensure, to the
7 greatest extent practicable and consistent with the
8 priorities established in the most recent Planetary
9 Science Decadal Survey pursuant to such section,
10 the completion and continued initiation of a bal-
11 anced set of Discovery, New Frontiers, and Flagship
12 missions at the cadence recommended by the most
13 recent Planetary Science Decadal Survey.

14 (2) The Administrator shall sustain robust sup-
15 port for Research and Analysis programs and main-
16 tain a budget for Research and Analysis programs
17 that are collectively not less than 10 percent of the
18 total annual funding for the Planetary Science Divi-
19 sion of NASA.

20 (3) The Administrator shall ensure, to the
21 greatest extent practicable, the orderly continuation
22 of active flight missions that remain scientifically
23 productive and cost-effective, and shall preserve the
24 scientific value of such missions by maintaining sup-
25 port for mission operations and data analysis in ac-

- 1 cordance with Senior Review processes and decadal
- 2 survey priorities.

