

COMMITTEE ON
**SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY**
CHAIRMAN LAMAR SMITH



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**Statement of Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas)
Full Committee Markup of the *NASA Authorization Act of 2014 (H.R. 4412)***

Chairman Smith: Good morning. Thank you all for being here for today's mark-up of H.R. 4412, the NASA Authorization Act of 2014.

There is a reason why the National Air and Space Museum is the most visited museum in America. Space exploration captures the imagination of people around the world and encourages future generations to dream big, work hard and shoot for the stars.

NASA has accomplished some of the most awe-inspiring and technologically advanced space initiatives in the history of humankind.

Throughout its history, our space program has set goals that required vision and offered challenges that have led to innovation and the development of new technologies. New technologies give us new discoveries about the universe and hope that we can find solutions to problems here on Earth.

Space exploration is an investment in our nation's future—often the distant future. And many technologies that Americans use on a daily basis were born out of NASA research. These include heart rate monitors, athletic shoes, air and water purifiers, cordless tools, and laptop computers. They improve Americans' quality of life and save lives. Today's bill ensures that NASA will continue to innovate and inspire.

The scientists, engineers and astronauts who find creative and new solutions to the challenges of exploring the universe serve as role models for our students. They motivate young people to study science, math, engineering and computer science.

Even if not all of these students become astronauts, the skills and knowledge they learn can be applied to make technological breakthroughs in other fields. These accomplishments stimulate our economy and keep the United States globally competitive.

There is strong, bipartisan support for NASA's unique role, and the Manager's amendment offered today reflects this. Mr. Palazzo and Ms. Edwards deserve much credit for producing a bipartisan bill.

The Manager's amendment increases the use of the International Space Station for science research, encourages commercial use of space, protects us from the effects of solar flares, helps remove orbital debris, and supports the development of a new space telescope that will detect Earth-sized planets.

The American people largely support space exploration and NASA. This support is reflected in Congress as well – on both sides of the Capitol and on both sides of the aisle.

Lastly, we are at this point thanks to the persistence over many days of very able staff members. On the Republican side they include Tom Hammond, Allison Rose-Sonnesyn, Jared Stout, and Gabriella Ra'anan. And on the Democrats side, Pam Whitney and Allen Li.

This was obviously a team effort and is very much appreciated by Members of this Committee. I encourage Members to vote for the Manager's amendment and to support the final bill. And then it's on to the House floor.

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