

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

A Review of the Space Leadership Preservation Act

February 27, 2013
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
2318 Rayburn House Office Building

Purpose

At 10:00 a.m. on February 28, 2013, the Subcommittee on Space will hold a hearing titled “A Review of the Space Leadership Preservation Act” to receive testimony on legislation (H.R. 6491) first introduced in the last Congress and to be re-introduced this week for the 113th Congress. This hearing will inform the Science, Space, and Technology Committee’s consideration of the policies, organization, programs, and budget in re-authorizing the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in this Congress.

Witnesses

Panel 1

- **The Honorable Frank R. Wolf**
- **The Honorable John Culberson**

Panel 2

- **Mr. A. Thomas Young, Chair of the Board for SAIC (testifying on his own behalf)**
- **Mr. Elliot Pulham, Chief Executive Officer, The Space Foundation**

Overarching Questions

- What are the key challenges facing NASA today?
- What organizational changes might be made to ensure more stability for our nation’s civil space program?
- Should NASA’s management structure be modeled after other agencies, such as the National Science Foundation, to provide more consistency in goals and constancy of purpose?

Background

Due to the over-riding concerns about a lack of stability in the vision and purpose of NASA’s human spaceflight program over many decades as well as so many human spaceflight programs

being canceled at a cost of an estimated \$20 billion,¹ the Space Leadership Preservation Act seeks to:

- Institute a 6-year term for the NASA Administrator, similar to the Director of the National Science Foundation.
- Create a Board of Directors chosen by the Administration as well as House and Senate leadership made up of former astronauts and eminent scientists. The Board would be responsible for:
 - Preparing a budget submission approved by the Administrator and submitted concurrently to House and Senate Appropriations and the president.
 - Recommending three candidates for NASA Administrator, Deputy Administrator and Chief Financial Officer to be considered by the President when submitting a nominee to the Senate for confirmation.
 - Preparing a quadrennial review of space programs and other reports, to include annual reports assessing the status of NASA infrastructure and workforce.
- Allow for long term contracting for rocket propulsion systems and manned and unmanned space transportation vehicles and payloads, including expendable launch vehicles, and related services. This authority is currently provided to the Air Force for Evolvable Expendable Launch Vehicles (EELV) and is modeled after current U.S. Navy practices for designing and building new submarines and ships.

There are several current reports that similarly point to the need for changes to NASA's management structure and overall agency mission objectives. In December 2012, the Space Foundation issued a report, *Pioneering: Sustaining U.S. Leadership in Space*.² This report called attention to the need for a clearly defined purpose for NASA and offered recommendations that would stabilize NASA leadership and planning, streamline the national civil space enterprise and stabilize NASA funding.

As the Science Committee begins the process of reauthorizing NASA, this hearing will take a comprehensive look at how the Agency functions, and considering possible legislative proposals, such as the *Space Leadership Preservation Act*, to improve NASA's management structure and accountability.

¹ <http://culberson.house.gov/reps-culberson-wolf-posey-and-olson-introduce-the-space-leadership-act/>

² http://www.spacefoundation.org/sites/default/files/downloads/PIONEERING_Exec%20Sum.pdf