

**U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology**

Pathways to Exploration: A Review of the Future of Human Space Exploration

CHARTER

Wednesday, June 25, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
2318 Rayburn House Office Building

Purpose

At 10:00 am on Wednesday, June 25, 2014, the Science, Space, and Technology Committee will hold a hearing *Pathways to Exploration: A Review of the Future of Human Space Exploration*. Section 204 of the NASA Authorization Act of 2010 required the agency to enter into a contract with the National Academies to review the future of human spaceflight.¹ In 2012, the National Research Council appointed an ad hoc Committee on Human Spaceflight co-chaired by Governor Daniels and Dr. Lunine. Today's hearing will review the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee's report *Pathways to Exploration—Rationales and Approaches for a U.S. Program of Human Space Exploration* released earlier this month.

The executive summary for the report is attached to this charter for reference. The full report of *Pathways to Exploration: Rationales and Approaches for a U.S. Program of Human Space Exploration* is available on the website for the National Academies of Science and located here:

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=18801.

Witnesses

- **Governor Mitch Daniels** – Co-Chair of the Report and President, Purdue University
- **Dr. Jonathan Lunine** – Co-Chair of the Report and Director, Cornell University's Center for Radiophysics and Space Research

Background

After President Obama cancelled the Constellation program in 2010 and the Space Shuttle program ended in 2011, NASA's human exploration program has endured an extremely difficult transition. The NASA Authorization Act of 2010 provided some stability in policy and programmatic guidance for the agency during this time. However, as the Committee on Human Spaceflight noted in its report:

“The United States has publicly funded its human spaceflight program on a continuous basis for more than a half-century. Today the United States is the major partner in a massive orbital facility—the International Space Station (ISS)—that is a model for how U.S. leadership can engage nations through soft power and is becoming the focal point for the first tentative steps in commercial cargo and crewed orbital spaceflights. And yet, a national consensus on the long-term future of human spaceflight beyond our commitment to the ISS remains elusive.”

¹ NASA Authorization Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-267): <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-111publ267/pdf/PLAW-111publ267.pdf>