

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5345

To designate the Marshall Space Flight Center of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to provide leadership for the U.S. rocket propulsion industrial base, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 20, 2018

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To designate the Marshall Space Flight Center of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to provide leadership for the U.S. rocket propulsion industrial base, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “American Leadership
5 in Space Technology and Advanced Rocketry Act” or the
6 “ALSTAR Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Rocket propulsion is an enabling technology
2 for our Nation’s future prosperous way of life.

3 (2) Rocket propulsion technologies are critical
4 to national security, intelligence gathering, commu-
5 nications, weather forecasting, navigation, commu-
6 nications, entertainment, land use, Earth observa-
7 tion, and scientific exploration.

8 (3) The rocket propulsion industry is a source
9 of high-quality jobs.

10 (4) Multiple Federal agencies and companies
11 are involved in rocket propulsion research, develop-
12 ment, and manufacturing.

13 (5) Integration, coordination, and cooperation
14 would strengthen the United States rocket propul-
15 sion industrial base.

16 (6) Erosion of the rocket propulsion industrial
17 base would seriously impact national security, space
18 exploration potential, and economic growth.

19 (7) The Marshall Space Flight Center has dec-
20 ades of experience working with other Government
21 agencies and industry partners to study and coordi-
22 nate these capabilities.

23 (8) The Marshall Space Flight Center has made
24 historic and unique contributions—

1 (A) by bringing stakeholders together to
2 work on rocket propulsion industrial base
3 sustainment;

4 (B) of technical expertise to key studies
5 and review boards; and

6 (C) by consistently participating in inter-
7 agency working groups to address rocket pro-
8 pulsion issues.

9 **SEC. 3. ROCKET PROPULSION LEADERSHIP.**

10 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
11 gress that the Marshall Space Flight Center is the Na-
12 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration’s lead center
13 for rocket propulsion and is essential to sustaining and
14 promoting U.S. leadership in rocket propulsion and devel-
15 oping the next generation of rocket propulsion capabilities.

16 (b) LEADERSHIP IN ROCKET PROPULSION.—The
17 Marshall Space Flight Center shall provide national lead-
18 ership in rocket propulsion by—

19 (1) contributing to interagency coordination for
20 the preservation of critical national rocket propul-
21 sion capabilities;

22 (2) collaborating with industry, academia, and
23 professional organizations to most effectively use na-
24 tional capabilities and resources;

1 (3) monitoring public- and private-sector rocket
2 propulsion activities to develop and promote a
3 strong, healthy rocket propulsion industrial base;

4 (4) facilitating technical solutions for existing
5 and emerging rocket propulsion challenges;

6 (5) supporting the development and refinement
7 of rocket propulsion for small satellites;

8 (6) evaluating and recommending, as appro-
9 priate, new rocket propulsion technologies for fur-
10 ther development; and

11 (7) providing information required by national
12 decisionmakers so that policies and other instru-
13 ments of the Government support the development
14 and strengthening of the Nation's rocket propulsion
15 capabilities throughout the 21st century.

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