I am pleased this bill has passed today because it is critical in allowing United States launch companies to compete effectively in the growing commercial space race.

Having already passed the House by a large majority, the Commercial Space Act needed to be considered by the Senate. I was pleased to work with my colleagues to ensure the future of our nation's high-tech economic frontier: commercial space.

I speak today as a Senator concerned about both our national security and our nation's economic position. The United States cannot afford to descend into another "launch gap." Our recent discussions over why U.S. satellites are being launched from China demands that the U.S. Senate act quickly to make the commercial launch environment in this country as progressive and productive as possible.

When the space race began with the launch of Sputnik in October 1957, America stepped into a new era of innovation and fear as the first man-made satellite—a Soviet satellite—beeped its way around the earth. In the two decades that followed, an aggressive U.S. space program, both civil and military, brought the country back into the leadership position and made us the world's Number One in space.

But there is no denying that today, the United States preeminence in commercial space is threatened. If you were to step back in time 30 years to the nation's premier launch facility, Cape Canaveral, you would have seen a forest of launch vehicles ready on the pads. Visit our launch facilities today and you will see under-utilized launch facilities while at the same time U.S. commercial companies struggle to develop new space vehicles under constraints of outdated laws and policies.

A recent aerospace survey predicts over 1,000 commercial satellites will be launched into earth orbit over the next decade. The good news is that the U.S. government and American companies may launch up to 65 percent of those payloads if the Commercial Space Act is implemented. The bad news is that many commercial satellite companies are already looking to foreign countries for launch services due to the restrictive environment in which they must operate in the United States and the lack of domestic launch services.

In other words, Mr. President, while our space industry is rapidly preparing for the 21st Century, federal policy in dealing with this important source of economic activity is stuck on the launch pad.

The single most important provision of the Commercial Space Act is an amendment to the Commercial Space Launch Act of 1984 that gives the federal government the authority to license commercial space re-entry activity. The short form: what goes up, must come down.

Can you imagine the Wright Brothers' flight at Kitty Hawk ever being made if the government told them, "Sure you can fly it, just don't land." The way the law presently exists, commercial companies can launch but cannot land any vehicle returning from space. Only the U.S. government is allowed this privilege.

This provision must be changed to allow the development of future generations of spacecraft, such as the Reusable Launch Vehicle. This is the business of space: providing services, repeat services, to entrepreneurs. We must relieve this and other onerous and expensive constraints in an efficient, streamlined manner to support this growing market.

That brings me to my next point: this bill, to borrow from Neil Armstrong, will take a giant leap in clarifying complex and sometimes divergent commercial space licensing requirements in federal agencies. By streamlining the regulations and licensing, we will allow commercial companies to raise capital, develop business plans, and create job opportunities that might otherwise go overseas.

Mr. President, U.S. commercial space industry faces a number of competitors from abroad. The most serious are the Russian Proton, the Chinese Long March, and the European Space Agency Ariane rockets launched from French Guiana in South America. But this is not a comprehensive list. There are numerous competitors who would be more than happy to see the U.S. commercial launch industry locked in a web of regulations and limitations.

I am proud to report that one thing our bill does not do is spend any new taxpayer dollars. As a policy bill, we are seeking to level the playing field without creating any new government programs. Our bill does require studies, but those studies will be accomplished using the existing resources of agencies involved and data that has already been collected.

For instance, our legislation would require the Department of Defense to conduct an inventory of its range as- sets and determine what, if any, deficiencies exist. Much of this information is already available through existing Defense Department reports. Armed with this information, we can convert our nation's launch ranges back to the busiest space facilities in the world.

But this legislation does more than just refrain from new spending. It actually saves money by allowing the conversion of excess ballistic missiles into space transportation vehicles. Due to the START treaty, these missiles can no longer be used for their original intended purpose. Furthermore, they are extremely expensive to store or destroy.

By using these missiles as launch vehicles, the government will be able to dramatically increase educational payloads that cannot afford the larger and more expensive rocket systems. This is a legal and efficient way to dispose of an expensive asset. Our Russian counterparts have been firing their missiles as opposed to spending money to destroy them. We will implement one more practical step by firing them with a payload.

In closing, let me remind you of remarks President Kennedy made in the midst of the hotly contested space race. During one of his visits to Cape Canaveral, President Kennedy declared, "We choose to go the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard."

As we consider this bill, we should all ponder that quote. It is not easy for the federal government to change the way it has done business for many years. It is hard; it is a challenge, for forward-thinking people both in and out of the government. But it is what we must do to protect our investment in the nation's economic future and our national pride. It is vital that we ensure our nation's position in the commercial space race of the 21st Century.

I thank the distinguished Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Commerce Committee Senator McCain and Senator Hollings, and the Chairman of the Science, Technology, and Space Committee Senator Frist for supporting this legislation and guiding it through the Senate process.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar: 605, 616, 617, 618, 652, 709, 711, 716, 719, 720, 721, 722, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744 through 778, 779, 780, and 781, and all the nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps and Navy.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements relating to the nominations appear at the appropriate place in the Record, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and that the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Raymond L. Bramucci, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

Thelma J. Askey, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission for the remainder of the term expiring December 16, 2006.

Jennifer Anne Hillman, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

Stephen Kaplan, of Virginia, to be a Member of the United States International Trade
Commission for the term expiring June 16, 2005.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Deidre A. Lee, of Oklahoma, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy.
Rossina M. Vierbaum, of Virginia, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

COAST GUARD
The following named officer for appointment as Chief of Staff, United States Coast Guard, and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 50a:
To be vice admiral
Rear Adm. Timothy J. Josiah, 7249

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
L. Britt Snider, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency.

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Scott E. Thomas, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2003. (Reappointment)
Darryl R. Wolg of California, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2001.
David M. Mason, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2003.
Karl J. Sandstrom, of Washington, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2001.

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY
Jonathan H. Spalter, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Director of the United States Information Agency.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY
Hugh Q. Parmer, of Texas, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Agency for International Development.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
Carolyn H. Becraft, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.
Ruby Butler DeMesme, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.
Patrick T. Henry, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

IN THE AIR FORCE
The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:
To be brigadier general
Col. George W. Keefe, 3692

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:
To be major general
Brig. Gen. Richard C. Cosgrave, 5678

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:
To be lieutenant general
Lt. Gen. Nicholas B. Kehoe, III, 3315
The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:
To be lieutenant general
Lt. Gen. Maxwell C. Bailey, 0835
The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:
To be lieutenant general
Lt. Gen. Phillip J. Ford, 8399

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:
To be lieutenant general
Maj. Gen. Ronald C. Marcotte, 7488
The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force as Chief, National Guard Bureau, and for appointment to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 10502:
To be lieutenant general
Maj. Gen. Russell C. Davis, 2021

RESERVE OF THE ARMY
The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:
To be brigadier general
Col. Richard S. Colt, 9447
The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:
To be brigadier general
Keith B. Alexander, 9763
Dorian T. Anderson, 0294
Eldon A. Bargewell, 6135
David W. Barno, 9794
William H. Brandenburg, 9945
John M. Brown, III, 0258
Peter W. Chiarelli, 6958
Claude V. Christianson, 1982
Edward L. Dyer, 5307
William F. Ennes, 1969
Barbara G. Fast, 1763
Stephen J. Ferrer, 9691
Thomas R. Goedkoop, 5449
Dennis E. Hardig, 6298
Steven R. Hawkins, 7697
John W. Holly, 6285
David H. Huntoon, Jr., 1919
Peter T. Madsen, 8165
Jesus A. Mangual, 6552
Thomas G. Miller, 3543
Robert W. Mixon, Jr., 6735
Virgil L. Pack, 6135
Donald D. Parker, 6333
Elbert N. Perkins, 0786
Joseph F. Peterson, 2747
David H. Petraeus, 1960
Marilyn A. Quagliatti, 8480
Maynard S. Roahdes, 6348
Velma L. Richardson, 6246
Michael D. Rochelle, 4387
Joe G. Taylor, Jr., 0884
Nathaniel R. Thompson, III, 5240
Alan W. Thrasher, 6690
James D. Thuerble, 4802
Thomas R. Turner, II, 7116
John M. Ursias, 6022
Michael A. Vane, 9890
Lloyd T. Waterman, 2003
The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:
To be brigadier general
Col. Dale R. Barber, 8409
The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:
To be brigadier general
Col. Robert T. Dail, 5056

RESERVE OF THE NAVY
The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:
To be lieutenant general
Maj. Gen. Leon J. LaPorte, 0933
The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:
To be brigadier general
Brig. Gen. Edmund C. Zysk, 6065
To be brigadier general
Col. William J. Davies, 1673
Col. James P. Combs, 0758
The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:
To be general
Lt. Gen. John N. Abizaid, 5774
The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:
To be lieutenant general
Maj. Gen. David H. Ohle, 2815
The following Army National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:
To be major general
Brig. Gen. Paul J. Glazer, 2517
Brig. Gen. John R. Groves, Jr., 2716
Brig. Gen. David T. Hartley, 1609
Brig. Gen. Lloyd E. Krase, 3636
Brig. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, 0645
Brig. Gen. Benny M. Paulino, 5606
Brig. Gen. Jean A. Romney, 1872
Brig. Gen. Allen E. Tackett, 5032
To be brigadier general
Col. Richard W. Averitt, 7139
Col. Daniel P. Coffey, 4196
Col. Howard A. Dillon, Jr., 1659
Col. Barry A. Griffin, 8148
Col. Larry D. Haub, 3406
Col. Robert J. Hayes, 7789
Col. Lawrence F. Lafrenz, 4984
Col. Victor C. Langford, III, 4215
Col. Thomas P. Mancino, 3133
Col. Dennis C. Merrill, 5790
Col. Walter A. Paulson, 4766
Col. Robley S. Bigelow, 7740
Col. Kenneth B. Robinson, 8162
Col. Roy M. Umbarger, 9266
Col. J. Jimmy R. Watson, 5571
Col. Paul H. Weyland, 4177

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

Col. Bruce W. Pieratt, 4901

Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

Col. Thomas J. Romig, 9070

Capt. Gwilym H. Jenkins, Jr., 0193
Capt. Michael E. Finley, 8251

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

Brig. Gen. Emilio Diaz-Colon, 2517

Col. Jimmy R. Watson, 5571
Col. Kenneth B. Robinson, 8162
Col. Robley S. Bigelow, 7740
Col. Thomas P. Mancino, 3133

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

Col. Thomas J. Romig, 9070

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

Col. Bruce W. Pieratt, 4901

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

Rear Adm. (1h) Peter A. C. Long, 9560

The following named officer for appointment as Chief of Chaplains and for appointment to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 5142:

Rear Adm. (1h) Anderson B. Holderby, J r., 9991

Air Force nominations beginning Albert K. Aimar, and ending Jerry L. Wilper, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of J une 15, 1998.

Air Force nominations beginning Hedy C. Pinkerton, and ending Philip M. Shue, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 7, 1998.

Air Force nominations beginning J ohn J. Abbatietti, and ending Michael P. Zumwalt, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 7, 1998.

Army nominations beginning J ohn K. Ahan, and ending Clarinda K. Zawacki, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 22, 1998.

Army nominations of Angela D. Meggs, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 1998.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

Rear Adm. (1h) Michael L. Cowan, 2470

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

Rear Adm. (1h) Thomas J. Romig, 9070

Col. Robert L. Bigelow, 7740
Col. Kenneth B. Robinson, 8162
Col. Paul H. Weyland, 4177

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

Rear Adm. (1h) Anderson B. Holderby, Jr., 9991

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

Rear Adm. John W. Craine, J r., 9037

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

Rear Adm. Herbert A. Browne, J r., 11, 4815

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Diane D. Blair, of Arkansas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring J anuary 31, 2004.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Kelley S. Coyner, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of Transportation.

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Ritajean Hartung Butterworth, of Washington, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring J anuary 31, 2004.

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE, ARMY, COAST GUARD, MARINE CORPS, NAVAL RESERVE:

Mr. President, I rise in support of the nomination of Ray Bramucci for the position of Assistant Secretary of Employment and Training in the Department of Labor. Mr. Bramucci has been a close and trusted partner of the Administration for many years. He is a man of enormous integrity, deep commitment to public service, and is ready and anxious to take up his responsibilities at the Department of Labor. Ray has a passion for making things better, and believes strongly in lifelong education and job training for our youth, especially our disadvantaged youth. He will give this job his full measure. I urge the Senate to move rapidly to confirm him.

A leading figure in New Jersey politics and public affairs, Ray's expertise in labor-management relations, job training initiatives, employment services, and policy development provides a solid foundation for overseeing the administration of agency programs as Assistant Secretary. From 1990 to 1994, Mr. Bramucci served as Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Labor. In this position, he was a key cabinet member and principal advisor to Governor Kean on matters both statewide and national impact, particularly in regard to economic development, education and training, and labor relations.
Mr. Bramucci also served as Chief Executive Officer of the New Jersey Department of Labor, an agency charged with workforce training and preparation, protecting workers from exploitation, and providing income security to workers who had exhausted their regular claims, as well as the New Jersey State Employment and Training Commission and the Employment Security Council, two national leaders in reforming and revitalizing the worker security system.

To the position of Assistant Secretary, he would also bring the skills he acquired in his 22 years of service as part of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. During this time, he rose from shop floor worker to eventually become the senior executive and key negotiator for the Union, in which he played a central role in negotiating hundreds of individual and industry-wide contracts.

From 1979 to 1990, he was Director of New Jersey Operations for our former colleague, Bill Bradley. Ray was the eyes and ears for Senator Bradley in New Jersey, and a key adviser to him on political and policy matters. It was during this period that I got to know Ray well, and then when he served as Labor Commissioner. In recognition of his many accomplishments, he has been named to the Executive Board of CDS International, Inc., the Commission Board of the New Jersey Black Achievers Program of Business and Education, and President of the New Jersey Caucus Education Corporation.

Mr. President, the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training is charged with directing Department programs and ensuring that programs funded through the agency are free from unlawful discrimination, fraud, and abuse. Ray Bramucci has the experience and commitment to assume these responsibilities with sensitivity and skill. He will make an exceptional Assistant Secretary. I thank my colleagues for confirming Ray Bramucci so he can get on with the job.

Mr. President, I am delighted to support the nomination of Patrick T. Henry to be the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

Mr. President, I can't think of a better person to serve in this important position. P.T. Henry has played a key role in virtually every Defense manpower and personnel issue in the last two decades. Whether the issue is quality of life issues, military pay and benefits questions, recruiting and retention, or military health care, the United States Senate and the men and women of our armed forces have benefited tremendously from the advice and counsel of P.T. Henry.

I know that every member of the Armed Services Committee agrees with me that P.T.'s expertise in the area of Defense manpower and personnel issues is exceeded only by his commitment to the welfare of the men and women of the armed forces and their families. I am disappointed that P.T. will be leaving the Armed Services Committee staff, but I am delighted and proud that he will be moving to such an important position in the Defense Department. The Senate's and the Armed Services Committee's loss is certainly the Army's gain.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank P.T. Henry for his service to the Senate and the nation. I know that he will do an outstanding job as the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and that he will continue to be an effective advocate for the men and women of the Army.

Mr. President, I am pleased that the President has nominated Brigadier General Allen E. Tackett for the rank of Major General. Brigadier General Tackett, a resident of Miami, West Virginia, graduated from East Bank High School and the University of Charleston, Charleston, West Virginia. He began his military career over 35 years ago as a Private in the Special Forces. Advancing from a Private to a Major General is an accomplishment which exemplifies his dedication to the National Guard, our country, and our State of West Virginia.

Brigadier General Tackett is a military graduate of the Special Warfare Center, Jumpmaster Course; Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses; Command and General Staff College; and the Special Warfare Center, Techniques of Special Operations.

Brigadier General Tackett's major decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Medal, Humanitarian Medal, and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal. He was awarded, through rigorous training and proven efficiency, the coveted Special Forces Tab and Master Parachutist Badge.

Three years ago, Brigadier General Tackett assumed his current prestigious command as Adjutant General, West Virginia National Guard, with leadership responsibility for six thousand men and women serving in the West Virginia National Guard.

Mr. President, I am pleased to cast my vote for the confirmation of Brigadier General Allen E. Tackett as Major General, and I urge my colleagues to support this nomination.