Corps Captain Sarah Deal. Captain Deal deserves the warmest, most heart-felt congratulations for her accomplishment of becoming the first female pilot in Marine Corps history. Her achievements reflect her courage, determination and self-belief. On behalf of Ohio’s lawmakers and citizens, I wish to pay tribute to this outstanding young woman.

Growing up in Pemberville, Ohio, Captain Deal always had a passion for flying, in part inspired by her father, a former Marine, who worked as an engineer testing jet engines. A graduate from Eastwood High School, she went on to study aviation at Kent State University. From there, she made the tough choice to join the United States Marine Corps to begin training as an air traffic control officer. Even though women were allowed to fly in the Army, Navy and Air Force, she still chose the Marines, knowing that the only way she would be allowed to fly would be recreationally. However, her difficult choice was rewarded with the landmark Defense Department decision in 1993, ordering the armed forces to end their ban on women flying combat missions. Following the announcement, Captain Deal immediately chose to attend Marine flight school despite being the only woman there. Her persistence and hard work were rewarded in April 1995, when her father had the pleasure of pinning her wings to her uniform at her graduation ceremony in Milton, Florida.

Abigail Adams once wrote in a letter to her husband, “all history and every age exhibit instances of patriotic virtue in the female sex; which considering our situation equals the most heroic of yours.” Captain Deal follows in the footsteps of the legendary Grace Hopper, mathematician and computer pioneer, who became the first female Rear Admiral in the US Navy. And of Sally Ride, the first female U.S. astronaut. And of Mary Hallaren, champion for permanent status for women in the military after World War II and subsequent director of the Women’s Auxiliary Corps from 1947–1953. All these women have proved there is nothing that cannot equally be achieved by women in our armed forces. Captain Deal’s achievements are a proud demonstration of what can be achieved by women in today’s society. Her achievements offer hope and encouragement to all women to follow their dreams and to pursue paths that have previously been unjustly denied them. Her efforts have been a key factor in breaking the gender barrier that existed in the armed forces and in opening the eyes of others to more tolerant attitudes.

This month Captain Deal will be inducted into the Ohio Women’s Hall of Fame, in recognition of her achievements. On behalf of Ohio’s Ninth District, I would like to wish Captain Deal every success with her military career and in her current assignment with the Marine Corps Air Station in Miramar, California. We are truly grateful for her service to our country and once again congratulate her for all her achievements. Her virtue and patriotism are a shining example to all women, and indeed, all people in this Nation.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill that will allow our National Laboratories to more effectively perform their missions while also promoting economic development in the communities that surround the facilities. Specifically, this bill creates a win/win scenario for both the National Laboratories and the adjoining communities. The National Laboratories will advance their missions by benefiting from the cutting edge technology possessed by universities and companies near them and the community benefits from the creation of needed high quality infrastructure that will boost innovation and create job growth.

In recognizing the potential of involving the national laboratories in technical collaborations with institutions in their surrounding communities, Congress has in the past encouraged cooperative research and development agreements (known as “CRADAs”). This legislation builds upon the success of the collaborations. Specifically, this bill will: Create an advocate for small business at each national laboratory who will focus on increasing the involvement of small businesses in the national laboratory's procurement and collaborative research; create a technology partnership ombudsman at each laboratory who will guarantee that the national laboratory remains a good partner; allow the Department of Energy to use more flexible and compelling authority; and streamline the current process concerning the cooperative research and development agreements; to make these agreements more appealing to technical organizations, such as companies and universities.

I have a national laboratory in the district that I represent, Los Alamos National Laboratory. As with other national laboratories, the Los Alamos National Laboratory has a very important relationship with the people in the surrounding communities and the region. As I am sure with all communities that surround our national laboratories, there is a need for greater economic prosperity. This bill creates a long term solution to this problem. Besides assisting the national laboratories in fulfilling their missions, this bill also lays the foundation to create high paying jobs that will directly benefit our communities.

This is a companion measure to a bill introduced in the other chamber by Senator Jeff Bingaman from New Mexico. This is an initiative that he has pursued for many years and I would like to recognize him for this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this worthy legislation.

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, this bill is an important step toward legislation that will advance increased competition in the global satellite telecommunications market. It is my fervent hope that we can complete action on this bill before Congress leaves this year, as I believe the Chairman has said he intends to do. The sooner Congress enacts comprehensive satellite reform legislation, the sooner we can let the private sector begin making decisions in this competitive marketplace. But as we move toward that legislative objective, it is important that we realize that certain issues must be addressed before we can declare such a victory.

H.R. 3261 is a good first step and I applaud the Chairman for bringing it forward. However, I do have concerns about the bill as it is introduced that I hope can be resolved as the process moves forward.

One distinct improvement is that the call for a fresh look, or the abrogation or modification of private contracts by the federal government, is not in this bill. But there remains in the bill another important issue known as Level IV direct access that still needs to be resolved. Level IV direct access would unfairly take value away from Comsat shareholders. I am very concerned that if this provision is not improved it will result in significant harm to Comsat shareholders. Similarly, Congress should simply repeal the ownership cap on Comsat without conditions, rather than making it contingent upon unrelated events as it does now in this legislation.

Other outstanding differences between the House and Senate must similarly be resolved in conference and I urge the Chairman and Ranking Democrat to work diligently to do so in a consensus manner. Notably, the privatization criteria should be made more flexible. Under the penalty of exclusion from the U.S. market, we should be very careful not to impose unrealistic privatization requirements that Intelsat will not be able to meet. Excluding Intelsat from the U.S. market could be extremely harmful to consumers everywhere. I fear that if that happened we would be “cutting our nose off to spite our face” because everyone, Intelsat users and their consumers, would lose. I urge that these issues be examined anew to ensure that U.S. consumers will not be harmed by any new restrictions imposed by this bill.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago we celebrated the Nine Black Americans who had the courage to integrate Central...