

Regular Session, 2004

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 286

BY REPRESENTATIVES DOWNS AND CROWE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize congress to fully fund the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Fiscal Year 2005 budget request.

WHEREAS, the United States has a proud heritage of leading the world in exploration and discovery on land, under the seas, and in outer space; and

WHEREAS, this heritage of expanding the boundaries of human experience has been paramount in American priorities throughout its history as evidenced by adventures ranging from Lewis and Clark's exploration of the West through the exploration of the surface of the planet Mars using the Mars Rover; and

WHEREAS, in the relatively short period of two hundred years, the American spirit of exploration pushed the frontier from just beyond the original thirteen states to the outer reaches of our solar system; and

WHEREAS, this spirit has resulted in discovery, which is the intrinsic reward of exploration, as well as immeasurable benefits to all humankind through the development of new technologies, the creation of new jobs across the entire economic spectrum, economic growth through creation of new commercial products and markets, the creation of advanced educational opportunities, and the establishment of a legacy for future generations; and

WHEREAS, space exploration, particularly as carried out under the auspices of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), has generated more than its share of discovery and indirect economic and social benefits and has also been proven to ignite American students' interest in science and mathematics; and

WHEREAS, the people of Louisiana have been directly involved in and beneficiaries of the NASA space program through facilities such as the Michoud Assembly Facility and the John C. Stennis Space Center nearby in Mississippi and through projects such as the Regional Applications Center at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, which is aimed at fostering commercial use of spatial data technology, to name but a few; and

WHEREAS, NASA has a long and proven history in performing the courageous and sometimes costly work of charting frontiers, and it is clear that allowing the agency to carry on with this important work is in the long-term, best interests of this nation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact and fully fund the proposed vision for the space exploration program as submitted to congress in the Fiscal Year 2005 budget to enable the United States to remain a leader in the exploration and development of space.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana fully supports the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in the continued development of the space station and other NASA infrastructure and the use of such infrastructure in ongoing and new research projects and also supports efforts to return to the moon and future ventures to Mars and other planets of the solar system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the United States Senate and House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE