

A RESOLUTION

Encouraging the Congress of the United States to fully fund the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) Vision for Space Exploration program.

WHEREAS, The United States is a nation of explorers; and

WHEREAS, The desire to explore is part of our character, and history has shown that space exploration benefits all humankind through new technologies for everyday application, new jobs across the entire economic enterprise, economic contributions through new markets and commercial products, education and inspiration, United States leadership, increased security, and a legacy for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Exploration and discovery have been especially important to the American experience, providing vision, hope, and economic stimulus, from new world explorers and American pioneers to the Apollo program; and

WHEREAS, Just as Lewis and Clark could not have predicted the settlement of the American west within a hundred years of the start of their famous 19th century expedition, the total benefits of a single exploratory undertaking or discovery cannot be predicted in advance; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception in 1958, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has accomplished many great scientific and technological feats, in addition to advancing humankind's knowledge of the Earth and the universe; and

WHEREAS, The United States has a venerable history of space exploration, which has led to a superior understanding of the heavens, from our moon to Mars and outward to the universe; and

WHEREAS, NASA's Vision for Space Exploration goals include completing construction of the International Space Station, furthering human research on the surface of our moon and extending human existence throughout the solar system; and

WHEREAS, The work of the United States space program figures dramatically in the technological accomplishments of our region and in our exciting growth over the last four decades.

WHEREAS, Alabama plays an integral role in NASA's mission. Over the years, successful partnership between NASA and Alabama industry and academia has benefited the state, the U.S. Space Program, and America's continuing quest to explore our universe and better our lives here on Earth.

WHEREAS, Alabama is home to NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, one of the agency's largest centers with an economic impact of nearly \$1 billion and over 10,000 jobs in the State annually.

WHEREAS, The state of Alabama is home to NASA Explorer schools in Albertville and Phenix City, along with an Educator Resource Center in Huntsville and several other programs across the state are sponsored by NASA, through which educators and students at all grades levels are enlightened about NASA's exploration of the universe; and

WHEREAS, Through these efforts our country is inspiring today's youth to become the scientists, engineers, technicians and space explorers of the future; and

WHEREAS, The Space Exploration Vision has the potential to drive innovation, development, and advancement in the aerospace and other high-technology industries across the nation and in the state of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, In order to guarantee the continuation of education and enlightenment through space discovery, as well as the development of the NASA space program, it is vital that the Congress of the United States enact and fully fund the proposed Vision for Space Exploration program as submitted to Congress in the fiscal year 2006 budget; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Alabama municipal officials recognize the importance of and encourage Congress to enact and fund in its entirety the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Vision for Space Exploration program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Alabama League of Municipalities wholeheartedly supports NASA's Vision for Space Exploration to pioneer the next frontier and maintaining America's leadership in space.

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 Alabama congressional delegation.

Passed by unanimous vote on May 24, 2005 during the General Business session of the Alabama League of Municipalities Convention in Huntsville, AL.