

Regular Session, 2004

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 158

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact and fully fund the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Vision for Space Exploration Program.

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 our national experience has been paramount in American priorities from the days of Lewis and Clark through the exploration of the moon's surface by the Apollo astronauts and the surface of Mars using the Mars Rover; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of America's exploration boundaries from the original states to the lunar surface in the relatively short period of 200 years has led to 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, the potential of space exploration has proven to ignite American students' interest in science and mathematics; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana has long played an important role in America's space program; and

WHEREAS, NASA's Michoud Operations in East New Orleans has played a key manufacturing role in mankind's only voyages to the moon; and

WHEREAS, NASA's Michoud Operations in East New Orleans has a long history with the U.S. government and space program, including the manufacturing of cargo planes during World War II, tanks during the Korean conflict, and the design and development of the giant Saturn rocket boosters that carried men to the moon; and

WHEREAS, as the site employs 2,250 people from the New Orleans area, Lockheed Martin's Michoud Operations at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility is one of the largest economic forces in the region; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana is making significant investments and policy shifts in technology at the Michoud facility focusing on knowledge-driven, technology-centered industries, as set out in our master plan for economic development, *Louisiana: Vision 2020*; and

WHEREAS, together with the Stennis Space Center, the New Orleans region has a strong base of skilled aerospace workers; and

WHEREAS, the talent, technology, and infrastructure exist in Louisiana to provide resources key to carrying out NASA's future missions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of Louisiana, that the legislature does hereby express its support of the continuation of research and development programs in earth and space science missions to take full advantage of the previous investments made in the space stations and other National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) infrastructure, its support of NASA's goal of returning to the moon as well as excursions to Mars and beyond, and hereby encourages 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 and Louisiana, in particular, to remain a leader in the exploration and development of space.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be provided to the president of the United States, to the president of the United States Senate, the speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES