

By: Jackson
No. 196

S.R.

SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Since its inception in 1958, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration ([NASA\[0\]](#)) has accomplished many great scientific and technological feats, in addition to advancing humankind's knowledge of the Earth and the universe; and

WHEREAS, Texas, primarily through the work done at the [NASA\[0\]](#) Johnson Space Center in Houston, has been a leader in the research, design, exploration, and development of space enterprise since the dawn of the space age; and

WHEREAS, More than 3,000 civil servants, with a total payroll in excess of \$260 million, and over 12,000 contractor employees work at the Johnson Space Center; and

WHEREAS, The value of contracts with the Johnson Space Center's major contractor companies is over \$3 billion, representing a significant economic impact to both the state and local economies; and

WHEREAS, Thirty percent of [NASA's\[0\]](#) \$14 billion budget is spent in Texas at the Johnson Space Center; and

WHEREAS, The Johnson Space Center has pioneered breakthroughs in space exploration, specifically through the Space Shuttle and International Space Station Programs, as well as astronaut selection and training; support of extravehicular activities; mission operations, including the Mission Control Center; engineering, biological, and physical research; and the care of astromaterials; and

WHEREAS, Texas colleges and universities receive over \$10 million in [NASA\[0\]](#) science and engineering grants and contracts; and

WHEREAS, [NASA\[0\]](#) operates ambitious education outreach programs across the state through the Johnson Space Center, including [NASA\[0\]](#) Explorer Schools and the Texas Aerospace Scholars Program; and

WHEREAS, The desire to explore is part of America's 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, A Space Exploration Vision has recently been articulated to affirm the United States' commitment to human space exploration and to give [NASA\[0\]](#) a new focus and clear objectives, including long-term human and robotic programs to explore the solar system, and a return to the moon that will ultimately enable future exploration of Mars and other destinations; and

WHEREAS, The Space Exploration Vision begins with [NASA\[0\]](#) returning the Space Shuttle to safe flight, with the chief purpose of completing assembly on the International Space

Station, in addition to developing a new crew exploration vehicle to explore beyond Earth's orbit to other worlds, all of which are goals uniquely suited for the expertise resident at the [NASA\[0\]](#) Johnson Space Center located in our state; 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 Texas; and

WHEREAS, The proposed budget request for [NASA\[0\]](#) in fiscal year 2005 fully supports the Space Exploration Vision, aligns [NASA\[0\]](#) programs with the Vision goals, affirms the nation's commitment to space exploration, and provides a clear direction for the United States space program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, 4th Called Session, 2004, hereby strongly encourage all members of the United States Congress to fully fund the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in the amount of \$16.2 billion in support of the Space Exploration Vision, as submitted to the Congress for fiscal year 2005, to enable the United States, and the state of Texas, to remain leaders in the exploration and development of space; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of the senate forward official copies of this Resolution to the president and vice president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives, to each senator and representative from Texas in the Congress of the United States of America, and to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Administrator.

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 17, 2004.

Secretary of the Senate