

Union Calendar No.

115TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5345

[Report No. 115-]

To designate the Marshall Space Flight Center of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to provide leadership for the U.S. rocket propulsion industrial base, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 20, 2018

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

APRIL --, 2018

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union,
and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To designate the Marshall Space Flight Center of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to provide leadership for the U.S. rocket propulsion industrial base, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “American Leadership
5 in Space Technology and Advanced Rocketry Act” or the
6 “ALSTAR Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

9 (1) Rocket propulsion is an enabling technology
10 for our Nation’s future prosperous way of life.

11 (2) Rocket propulsion technologies are critical
12 to national security, intelligence gathering, commu-
13 nications, weather forecasting, navigation, commu-
14 nications, entertainment, land use, Earth observa-
15 tion, and scientific exploration.

16 (3) The rocket propulsion industry is a source
17 of high-quality jobs.

18 (4) Multiple Federal agencies and companies
19 are involved in rocket propulsion research, develop-
20 ment, and manufacturing.

21 (5) Integration, coordination, and cooperation
22 would strengthen the United States rocket propul-
23 sion industrial base.

1 (6) Erosion of the rocket propulsion industrial
2 base would seriously impact national security, space
3 exploration potential, and economic growth.

4 (7) The Marshall Space Flight Center has dec-
5 ades of experience working with other Government
6 agencies and industry partners to study and coordi-
7 nate these capabilities.

8 (8) The Marshall Space Flight Center has made
9 historic and unique contributions—

10 (A) by bringing stakeholders together to
11 work on rocket propulsion industrial base
12 sustainment;

13 (B) of technical expertise to key studies
14 and review boards; and

15 (C) by consistently participating in inter-
16 agency working groups to address rocket pro-
17 pulsion issues.

18 **SEC. 3. ROCKET PROPULSION LEADERSHIP.**

19 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
20 gress that the Marshall Space Flight Center is the Na-
21 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration’s lead center
22 for rocket propulsion and is essential to sustaining and
23 promoting U.S. leadership in rocket propulsion and devel-
24 oping the next generation of rocket propulsion capabilities.

1 (b) LEADERSHIP IN ROCKET PROPULSION.—The
2 Marshall Space Flight Center shall provide national lead-
3 ership in rocket propulsion by—

4 (1) contributing to interagency coordination for
5 the preservation of critical national rocket propul-
6 sion capabilities;

7 (2) collaborating with industry, academia, and
8 professional organizations to most effectively use na-
9 tional capabilities and resources;

10 (3) monitoring public- and private-sector rocket
11 propulsion activities to develop and promote a
12 strong, healthy rocket propulsion industrial base;

13 (4) facilitating technical solutions for existing
14 and emerging rocket propulsion challenges;

15 (5) supporting the development and refinement
16 of rocket propulsion for small satellites;

17 (6) evaluating and recommending, as appro-
18 priate, new rocket propulsion technologies for fur-
19 ther development; and

20 (7) providing information required by national
21 decisionmakers so that policies and other instru-
22 ments of the Government support the development
23 and strengthening of the Nation's rocket propulsion
24 capabilities throughout the 21st century.