

## **H.R. 1508, the Space Resource Exploration and Utilization Act**

**Sponsors:** Rep. Bill Posey and Rep. Derek Kilmer

In the United States, a number of for-profit private companies are investing in and developing the technical capability to explore and utilize outer space resources. Stakeholders from this nascent industry are concerned that legal and regulatory uncertainty are impeding their development and threaten to disrupt the establishment of the industry. This Act addresses these concerns through the establishment of a legal framework to govern property rights of resources obtained from asteroids, enabling this new industry and providing guidance for future entrepreneurs. The Committee held a hearing on this topic on September 10, 2014.

### **Key Provisions**

- Directs the President to facilitate commercial utilization, discourage government barriers, and promote the right of United States commercial entities to explore outer space and utilize space resources.
- Requires a Presidential report that contains recommendations on regulatory uncertainty and authorizations necessary to meet the international obligations of the United States.
- Establishes that any asteroid resources obtained in outer space are the property of the entity that obtained such resources, subject to Federal law.
- Requires operators avoid causing harmful interference in outer space, an international legal obligation of the United States under Article 9 of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty.
- Provides a civil action for relief from harmful interference to asteroid utilization operations subject to certain conditions.