

OPENING STATEMENT
Ranking Member Daniel W. Lipinski (D-IL)
of the Subcommittee on Research and Technology

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Full Committee Markup
March 22, 2018

Thank you Chairman Smith for holding today's bipartisan markup.

The first bill we are considering is the American Leadership in Space Technology and Advanced Rocketry Act, sponsored by Mr. Brooks. This bill recognizes the rocket propulsion work of the Marshall Space Flight Center. That work, as well as all the other work that is carried out at our various NASA centers around the country, is vital to American technological advancement in aerospace, and it is worthwhile to recognize that.

Second, we will consider the Commercial Space Support Vehicle Act, introduced by Congressman Posey. This bill amends existing law to provide the Secretary of Transportation with authority to license or permit space support vehicles for space support flights, such as crew training or research and development, that are related to space launch or reentry. I understand that the goal of these amendments is to provide the industry with greater statutory clarity, as well as to simplify the licensing process for commercial space missions. To that end, I think we should get feedback from the affected industry and make any appropriate adjustments to the legislation before we move towards enactment.

In addition, Mr. Chairman, it is important that FAA's Office of Commercial Space Transportation is sufficiently resourced to accommodate any additional work so that the Office can continue to focus on its core responsibilities of licensing and permitting commercial space launch and reentry vehicles. The U.S. commercial space launch industry is really in a resurgence right now, and we need to be doing what we can to ensure that resurgence continues.

Third, the bill we are marking up is H.R. 5086, my Innovators to Entrepreneurs Act of 2018, cosponsored by Mr. Webster and Ranking Member Johnson. This bill seeks to expand participation in the National Science Foundation's highly successful I-Corps program and to broaden the scope of curriculum offered. The I-Corps program helps increase the return on investment to Federal R&D dollars in the form of increased jobs and economic output.

Thank you for calling today's markup, and I yield back.