

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 7273
OFFERED BY MR. KENNEDY OF UTAH

At the end of title IV, add the following:

1 **SEC. 4** . **SPACE NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES.**

2 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
3 gress that—

4 (1) space nuclear propulsion systems have some
5 advantages over chemical systems, including high en-
6 ergy density and increased efficiency of propellant
7 use;

8 (2) space nuclear systems are a key enabling
9 technology for deep space human and robotic mis-
10 sions; and

11 (3) development of space nuclear systems will
12 require long-term commitment and investment.

13 (b) DIRECTION.—The Administrator shall continue
14 to develop the space nuclear capabilities as set forth in
15 section 10841 of the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-
16 ministration Authorization Act of 2022 (51 U.S.C. 20301
17 note).

18 (c) PLANS.—The Administrator shall develop an up-
19 date to the plans under section 10841 of the National Aer-
20 onautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of

1 2022 (51 U.S.C. 20301 note), which shall include infor-
2 mation relating to the following:

3 (1) The status of and progress with respect to
4 the space nuclear propulsion program under sub-
5 section (a) of such section.

6 (2) The status of the in-space demonstration of
7 a nuclear propulsion system in the late 2020's, in-
8 cluding remaining milestones and estimated dates
9 for the completion of each such milestone.

10 (3) Updates for the research, testing, and devel-
11 opment of a space nuclear surface power reactor de-
12 sign, in accordance with subsection (b) of such sec-
13 tion, including with respect to the remaining mile-
14 stones and estimated dates for the completion of
15 each such milestone.

16 (4) An assessment of the readiness to launch a
17 derivative fission surface power system by 2030, for
18 deployment on the surface of the Moon.

19 (5) A description of the extent to which the Ad-
20 ministrator will leverage nuclear radioisotope power
21 systems for lunar missions to survive the lunar
22 night.

23 (6) A description of current and planned NASA
24 efforts to engage with other Federal departments
25 and agencies and private sector entities on the devel-

1 opment and demonstration of space nuclear systems
2 and technologies.

3 (d) LESSONS-LEARNED ASSESSMENT.—Not later
4 than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
5 the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate commit-
6 tees of Congress a lessons-learned assessment derived
7 from the joint NASA-DARPA Demonstration Rocket for
8 Agile Cislunar Operations program, and such assessment
9 shall include an identification of the technical, pro-
10 grammatic, governance, acquisition, and interagency co-
11 ordination failures that contributed to the inability to exe-
12 cute a flight demonstration, and an identification of the
13 corrective actions the Administrator has taken or will take
14 to prevent recurrence of such failures in future space nu-
15 clear power and propulsion programs.

