

OPENING STATEMENT
Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Subcommittee on Environment
Subcommittee on Energy

Markup of H.R. 1159
"United States and Israel Space Cooperation Act"
September 6, 2017

Good morning, and thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this markup.

I support H.R. 1159, the "United States and Israel Space Cooperation Act".

The cooperation between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Israel Space Agency called out in this bill is just one example of peaceful international cooperation that has been a hallmark of NASA's approach since its inception.

In fact, when Congress passed NASA's founding legislation, the Space Act of 1958, a fundamental objective set for the agency was *"(7) Cooperation by the United States with other nations and groups of nations in work done pursuant to this Act and in the peaceful application of the results thereof;"*.

NASA has followed this objective, and since its establishment, NASA has entered into over 5,000 original agreements with international entities.

Currently, NASA has over 800 active cooperative agreements across a range of disciplines with over 120 countries and international organizations.

These partnerships have led to multiple benefits of in scientific advancement, access to scientific data, partnering in exploration, and sharing the costs and risks of space missions.

NASA's active cooperative activities with Israel include the involvement of almost 200 Israeli schools in the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) educational project; collaboration on atmospheric and climate research; and numerical cloud modeling, among other activities.

Mr. Chairman, it is also fitting to remember that the crew for the Space Shuttle mission, STS-107, included Israeli Astronaut, Ilan Ramon, who, along with the entire STS-107 crew, tragically perished with the loss of the *Columbia* Space Shuttle orbiter on February 1, 2003. Their sacrifice will be held in our hearts as we work to further space exploration for the benefits of humankind.

I hope that NASA will continue to follow the standard laid out in the 1958 Act that states: *"it is the policy of the United States that activities in space should be devoted to peaceful purposes for the benefit of all mankind"*.

Thank you, and I yield back.