AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 115–25

OFFERED BY MRS. COMSTOCK OF VIRGINIA

Page 386, after line 19, insert the following:

SEC. 6. [Establishment of Office of Spaceports.]

(a) Establishment of Office of Spaceports.—Title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end of subtitle V the following:

“CHAPTER 515—OFFICE OF SPACEPORTS

Sec. 51501. Establishment of Office of Spaceports.

§ 51501. Establishment of Office of Spaceports

(a) Establishment of Office.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of Transportation shall identify, within the Office of Commercial Space Transportation of the Federal Aviation Administration, a centralized policy office to be known as the Office of Spaceports.

(b) Purpose.—The purpose of the Office of Spaceports shall be to support, promote, and enable infrastructure improvements at Federal Aviation Administration-licensed spaceports in the United States.

(c) Functions.—The Office of Spaceports shall—
“(1) support licensing activities for launch sites;
“(2) develop and implement policies that promote infrastructure improvements at licensed public launch sites;
“(3) provide technical assistance, guidance, and support to licensed public spaceports;
“(4) promote United States-licensed spaceports within the Department; and
“(5) strengthen the nation’s competitiveness in launch infrastructure and increase resilience for the Federal Government and commercial customers.
“(d) RECOGNITION.—In carrying out the functions assigned in subsection (c), the Secretary shall recognize the unique needs and distinctions of spaceports that—
“(1) launch to orbit; and
“(2) are involved in suborbital launch activities.
“(e) DIRECTOR.—The Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation of the Federal Aviation Administration shall designate a Director of the Office of Spaceports.
“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
“(1) The term ‘spaceport’ means a launch site that is licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration.
“(2) The term ‘public spaceport’ means a launch site that is licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration and is owned and operated by a State or local governmental entity, including political subdivisions of a State or local government.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—
The table of chapters of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end of subtitle V the following:

“515. Office of Spaceports ............................................................51501.”.

SEC. 6 REPORT ON NATIONAL SPACEPORTS POLICY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) A robust network of space transportation infrastructure, including Federal Aviation Administration-licensed spaceports, is vital to the growth of the domestic space industry and America’s competitiveness and access to space.

(2) Non-Federal spaceports licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration have significantly increased the launch infrastructure of the United States through significant investments by State and local governments, which have encouraged greater private investment.

(3) These spaceports have led to the development of a growing number of orbital and suborbital launch sites that are available to the national secu-
rity, civil, and commercial space customers at minimal cost to the Federal Government.

(4) The Federal Government, led by the Secretary of Transportation, should seek to promote the growth, resilience, and capabilities of this space infrastructure through policies and through partnerships with State and local governments.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) evaluates the Federal Government’s national security and civil space launch demands and the needs of the United States and international commercial markets;

(2) proposes policies and programs designed to ensure a robust and resilient orbital and suborbital spaceport infrastructure to serve and capitalize on these launch opportunities;

(3) reviews the development and investments made by international competitors in foreign spaceports;

(4) makes recommendations on how the Federal Government can support, encourage, promote, and facilitate greater investments in infrastructure at
Federal Aviation Administration-licensed public
spaceports; and

(5) considers and makes recommendations
about how Federal Aviation Administration-licensed
spaceports can fully support and enable the national
space policy.

(c) UPDATES TO THE REPORT.—Not later than 3
years after the date of enactment of this Act and every
two years thereafter, the Secretary shall—

(1) update the previous report prepared under
this section; and

(2) submit the updated report to Congress.

(d) CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED.—In preparing the
reports required by this section, the Secretary shall con-
sult with individuals including—

(1) the Secretary of Defense;

(2) the Administrator of the National Oceanic
and Atmospheric Administration;

(3) the Administrator of the National Aero-
nautics and Space Administration; and

(4) interested persons at spaceports, State and
local governments, and industry.
SEC. 6. REPORT ON SPACE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE MATCHING GRANTS.

(a) GAO STUDY AND REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study regarding spaceport activities carried out pursuant to chapters 509 and 511 of title 51, United States Code, including—

(1) an assessment of potential mechanisms to provide Federal support to spaceports, including the airport improvement program established under subchapter I of chapter 471 of title 49, United States Code, and the program established under chapter 511 of title 51, United States Code;

(2) recommendations for potential funding options, including funds that may be collected from launch providers or launch customers; and

(3) any necessary changes to improve the spaceport application review process.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the study described in subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall consult with sources from each component of the launch process, including interested persons in industry and government officials at the Federal, State, and local levels.

(c) USER-FUNDED SPACEPORTS.—In reviewing funding options, the Comptroller General shall distinguish between spaceports that are user-funded and those that are not.
(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report containing results of the study conducted under subsection (a).