

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 115–**

**25**

**OFFERED BY MRS. COMSTOCK OF VIRGINIA**

Page 386, after line 19, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 6**        **ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF SPACEPORTS.**

2       (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF SPACEPORTS.—

3 Title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at

4 the end of subtitle V the following:

5 **“CHAPTER 515—OFFICE OF SPACEPORTS**

“Sec.

“51501. Establishment of Office of Spaceports.

6 **“§ 51501. Establishment of Office of Spaceports**

7       “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.—Not later than

8 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the

9 Secretary of Transportation shall identify, within the Of-

10 fice of Commercial Space Transportation of the Federal

11 Aviation Administration, a centralized policy office to be

12 known as the Office of Spaceports.

13       “(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Office of Space-

14 ports shall be to support, promote, and enable infrastruc-

15 ture improvements at Federal Aviation Administration-li-

16 censed spaceports in the United States.

17       “(c) FUNCTIONS.—The Office of Spaceports shall—

1 “(1) support licensing activities for launch sites;

2 “(2) develop and implement policies that pro-  
3 mote infrastructure improvements at licensed public  
4 launch sites;

5 “(3) provide technical assistance, guidance, and  
6 support to licensed public spaceports;

7 “(4) promote United States-licensed spaceports  
8 within the Department; and

9 “(5) strengthen the nation’s competitiveness in  
10 launch infrastructure and increase resilience for the  
11 Federal Government and commercial customers.

12 “(d) RECOGNITION.—In carrying out the functions  
13 assigned in subsection (c), the Secretary shall recognize  
14 the unique needs and distinctions of spaceports that—

15 “(1) launch to orbit; and

16 “(2) are involved in suborbital launch activities.

17 “(e) DIRECTOR.—The Associate Administrator for  
18 Commercial Space Transportation of the Federal Aviation  
19 Administration shall designate a Director of the Office of  
20 Spaceports.

21 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 “(1) The term ‘spaceport’ means a launch site  
23 that is licensed by the Federal Aviation Administra-  
24 tion.

1           “(2) The term ‘public spaceport’ means a  
2           launch site that is licensed by the Federal Aviation  
3           Administration and is owned and operated by a  
4           State or local governmental entity, including political  
5           subdivisions of a State or local government.”.

6           (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—  
7           The table of chapters of title 51, United State Code, is  
8           amended by adding at the end of subtitle V the following:  
          **“515. Office of Spaceports .....51501.”.**

9           **SEC. 6\_\_\_\_ REPORT ON NATIONAL SPACEPORTS POLICY.**

10          (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

11               (1) A robust network of space transportation  
12               infrastructure, including Federal Aviation Adminis-  
13               tration-licensed spaceports, is vital to the growth of  
14               the domestic space industry and America’s competi-  
15               tiveness and access to space.

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

22               (3) These spaceports have led to the develop-  
23               ment of a growing number of orbital and suborbital  
24               launch sites that are available to the national secu-

1       rity, civil, and commercial space customers at mini-  
2       mal cost to the Federal Government.

3           (4) The Federal Government, led by the Sec-  
4       retary of Transportation, should seek to promote the  
5       growth, resilience, and capabilities of this space in-  
6       frastructure through policies and through partner-  
7       ships with State and local governments.

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

11           (1) evaluates the Federal Government’s na-  
12      tional security and civil space launch demands and  
13      the needs of the United States and international  
14      commercial markets;

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

19           (3) reviews the development and investments  
20      made by international competitors in foreign space-  
21      ports;

22           (4) makes recommendations on how the Federal  
23      Government can support, encourage, promote, and  
24      facilitate greater investments in infrastructure at

1 Federal Aviation Administration-licensed public  
2 spaceports; and

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

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

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

12 (2) submit the updated report to Congress.

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

16 (1) the Secretary of Defense;

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

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

21 (4) interested persons at spaceports, State and  
22 local governments, and industry.

1 **SEC. 6 \_\_\_\_ . REPORT ON SPACE TRANSPORTATION INFRA-**  
2 **STRUCTURE MATCHING GRANTS.**

3 (a) GAO STUDY AND REPORT.—The Comptroller  
4 General of the United States shall conduct a study regard-  
5 ing spaceport activities carried out pursuant to chapters  
6 509 and 511 of title 51, United States Code, including—

7 (1) an assessment of potential mechanisms to  
8 provide Federal support to spaceports, including the  
9 airport improvement program established under sub-  
10 chapter I of chapter 471 of title 49, United States  
11 Code, and the program established under chapter  
12 511 of title 51, United States Code;

13 (2) recommendations for potential funding op-  
14 tions, including funds that may be collected from  
15 launch providers or launch customers; and

16 (3) any necessary changes to improve the space-  
17 port application review process.

18 (b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the study de-  
19 scribed in subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall  
20 consult with sources from each component of the launch  
21 process, including interested persons in industry and gov-  
22 ernment officials at the Federal, State, and local levels.

23 (c) USER-FUNDED SPACEPORTS.—In reviewing fund-  
24 ing options, the Comptroller General shall distinguish be-  
25 tween spaceports that are user-funded and those that are  
26 not.

1       (d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
2 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall  
3 submit to Congress a report containing results of the  
4 study conducted under subsection (a).

