

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4**  
**OFFERED BY MRS. COMSTOCK OF VIRGINIA**

Page 267, after line 10, insert the following:

1 **SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SPACEPORTS.**

2 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON STATE SPACEPORT  
3 CONTRIBUTIONS.—It is the Sense of Congress that—

4 (1) State government-owned and -operated  
5 spaceports have contributed hundreds of millions of  
6 dollars in infrastructure improvements to the na-  
7 tional space launch infrastructure, providing the  
8 United States Government and commercial cus-  
9 tomers with world-class space launch and processing  
10 infrastructure that is necessary to support continued  
11 American leadership in space;

12 (2) State spaceports play a critical role in pro-  
13 viding resiliency and redundancy in the national  
14 launch infrastructure to support national security  
15 and civil government capabilities, and should be rec-  
16 ognized as a critical infrastructure in Federal strat-  
17 egy and planning;

18 (3) continued State and local government in-  
19 vestments at Federal and non-Federal launch facili-  
20 ties should be encouraged and to the maximum ex-

1       tent practicable supported in Federal policies, plan-  
2       ning and infrastructure investment considerations,  
3       including through Federal-State partnerships;

4           (4) there is currently no Federal infrastructure  
5       investment program funding or encouraging State  
6       and local government investment in spaceport infra-  
7       structure, unlike Federal grant programs to encour-  
8       age continued investment in all other modes of  
9       transportation, including aviation, highways, ports,  
10      and rail, which limits opportunities for the Federal  
11      government to leverage and coordinate infrastruc-  
12      ture investments with State and local governments;

13          (5) Federal investments in space infrastructure  
14      should enable partnerships between Federal agencies  
15      with state spaceports to modernize and enable ex-  
16      panded 21st century space transportation infrastruc-  
17      ture, especially multi-modal networks needed for ro-  
18      bust space transportation that support national se-  
19      curity, civil, and commercial launch customers; and

20          (6) States that have made investments to build,  
21      maintain, operate, and improve capabilities for na-  
22      tional security, civil, and commercial customers  
23      should be commended for their infrastructure con-  
24      tributions to both Federal and non-Federal launch  
25      sites, and encouraged through a variety of programs

1 and policies to continue these investments in the na-  
2 tional interest.

3 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF SPACEPORTS.—

4 (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF SPACE-  
5 PORTS.—Title 51, United States Code, is amended  
6 by adding at the end of subtitle V the following:

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

“Sec.

“51501. Establishment of Office of Spaceports.

8 **“§ 51501. Establishment of Office of Spaceports**

9 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.—Not later than  
10 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the  
11 Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration  
12 shall identify, within the Office of Commercial Space  
13 Transportation, a centralized policy office to be known as  
14 the Office of Spaceports.

15 “(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Office of Space-  
16 ports shall be to support, promote, and enable infrastruc-  
17 ture improvements at Federal Aviation Administration-li-  
18 censed spaceports in the United States.

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

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

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

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

3           “(4) promote United States licensed spaceports  
4 within the Department; and

5           “(5) strengthen the Nation’s competitiveness in  
6 launch infrastructure and increase resilience for the  
7 Federal Government and commercial customers.

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

11           “(1) launch to orbit; and

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

13           “(e) DIRECTOR.—The Associate Administrator for  
14 Commercial Space Transportation of the Federal Aviation  
15 Administration shall designate a Director of the Office of  
16 Spaceports.

17           “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

21           “(2) The term ‘public spaceport’ means a  
22 launch site that is licensed by the Federal Aviation  
23 Administration and is owned or operated by a State  
24 or local governmental entity, including political sub-  
25 divisions of a State or local government.”.

1 (2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMEND-  
2 MENT.—The table of chapters of title 51, United  
3 State Code, is amended by adding at the end of sub-  
4 title V the following:

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

5 (c) REPORT ON NATIONAL SPACEPORTS POLICY.—

6 (1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

7 (A) A robust network of space transpor-  
8 tation infrastructure, including spaceports li-  
9 censed by the Federal Aviation Administration,  
10 is vital to the growth of the domestic space in-  
11 dustry and America’s competitiveness and ac-  
12 cess to space.

13 (B) Non-Federal spaceports licensed by the  
14 Federal Aviation Administration have signifi-  
15 cantly increased the launch infrastructure of  
16 the United States through significant invest-  
17 ments by State and local governments, which  
18 have encouraged greater private investment.

19 (C) These spaceports have led to the devel-  
20 opment of a growing number of orbital and sub-  
21 orbital launch sites that are available to the na-  
22 tional security, civil, and commercial space cus-  
23 tomers at minimal cost to the Federal Govern-  
24 ment.

1 (D) The Federal Government, led by the  
2 Secretary of Transportation, should seek to pro-  
3 mote the growth, resilience, and capabilities of  
4 this space infrastructure through policies and  
5 through partnerships with State and local gov-  
6 ernments.

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

11 (A) evaluates the Federal Government’s  
12 national security and civil space launch de-  
13 mands and the needs of the United States and  
14 international commercial markets;

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

19 (C) reviews the development and invest-  
20 ments made by international competitors in for-  
21 eign spaceports;

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

1 infrastructure at public spaceports licensed by  
2 the Federal Aviation Administration; and

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

7 (3) UPDATES TO THE REPORT.—Not later than  
8 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act and  
9 every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall—

10 (A) update the previous report prepared  
11 under this subsection; and

12 (B) submit the updated report to Con-  
13 gress.

14 (4) CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED.—In preparing  
15 the reports required by this subsection, the Sec-  
16 retary shall consult with individuals including—

17 (A) the Secretary of Defense;

18 (B) the Administrator of the National Oce-  
19 anic and Atmospheric Administration;

20 (C) the Administrator of the National Aer-  
21 onautics and Space Administration; and

22 (D) interested persons at spaceports, State  
23 and local governments, and industry.

24 (d) REPORT ON SPACE TRANSPORTATION INFRA-  
25 STRUCTURE MATCHING GRANTS.—

1           (1) GAO STUDY AND REPORT.—The Comp-  
2           troller General of the United States shall conduct a  
3           study regarding spaceport activities carried out pur-  
4           suant to chapters 509 and 511 of title 51, United  
5           States Code, including—

6                   (A) an assessment of potential mechanisms  
7                   to provide Federal support to spaceports, in-  
8                   cluding the airport improvement program estab-  
9                   lished under subchapter I of chapter 471 of  
10                  title 49, United States Code, and the program  
11                  established under chapter 511 of title 51,  
12                  United States Code;

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

16                  (C) any necessary changes to improve the  
17                  spaceport application review process.

18           (2) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the study  
19           described in paragraph (1), the Comptroller General  
20           shall consult with sources from each component of  
21           the launch process, including interested persons in  
22           industry and government officials at the Federal,  
23           State, and local levels.

24           (3) USER-FUNDED SPACEPORTS.—In reviewing  
25           funding options, the Comptroller General shall dis-



1       tinguish between spaceports that are funded by  
2       users and those that are not.

3               (4) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the  
4       date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller Gen-  
5       eral shall submit to Congress a report containing re-  
6       sults of the study conducted under paragraph (1).

