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

Page 267, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. ___. SPACEPORTS.

(a) Sense of Congress on State Spaceport Contributions.—It is the Sense of Congress that—

(1) State government-owned and -operated spaceports have contributed hundreds of millions of dollars in infrastructure improvements to the national space launch infrastructure, providing the United States Government and commercial customers with world-class space launch and processing infrastructure that is necessary to support continued American leadership in space;

(2) State spaceports play a critical role in providing resiliency and redundancy in the national launch infrastructure to support national security and civil government capabilities, and should be recognized as a critical infrastructure in Federal strategy and planning;

(3) continued State and local government investments at Federal and non-Federal launch facilities should be encouraged and to the maximum ex-
tent practicable supported in Federal policies, planning and infrastructure investment considerations, including through Federal-State partnerships;

(4) there is currently no Federal infrastructure investment program funding or encouraging State and local government investment in spaceport infrastructure, unlike Federal grant programs to encourage continued investment in all other modes of transportation, including aviation, highways, ports, and rail, which limits opportunities for the Federal government to leverage and coordinate infrastructure investments with State and local governments;

(5) Federal investments in space infrastructure should enable partnerships between Federal agencies with state spaceports to modernize and enable expanded 21st century space transportation infrastructure, especially multi-modal networks needed for robust space transportation that support national security, civil, and commercial launch customers; and

(6) States that have made investments to build, maintain, operate, and improve capabilities for national security, civil, and commercial customers should be commended for their infrastructure contributions to both Federal and non-Federal launch sites, and encouraged through a variety of programs
and policies to continue these investments in the na-
tional interest.

(b) Establishment of Office of Spaceports.—

(1) Establishment of office of space-
ports.—Title 51, United States Code, is amended
by adding at the end of subtitle V the following:

“CHAPTER 515—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
Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration
shall identify, within the Office of Commercial Space
Transportation, a centralized policy office to be known as
the Office of Spaceports.

“(b) Purpose.—The purpose of the Office of Space-
ports shall be to support, promote, and enable infrastruc-
ture improvements at Federal Aviation Administration-li-
censed 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 pro-
mote 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 or operated by a State or local governmental entity, including political subdivisions of a State or local government.”.
(2) Technical and Conforming Amendment.—The table of chapters of title 51, United State Code, is amended by adding at the end of subtitle V the following:

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

(c) Report on National Spaceports Policy.—

(1) Findings.—Congress finds the following:

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

(B) 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.

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

(2) 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—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(A) the Secretary of Defense;

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

(C) the Administrator of the National Aeron-
autics and Space Administration; and

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

(d) REPORT ON SPACE TRANSPORTATION INFRA-
STRUCTURE MATCHING GRANTS.—
(1) **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—

(A) 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;

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

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

(2) **CONSULTATION.**—In carrying out the study described in paragraph (1), 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.

(3) **USER-FUNDED SPACEPORTS.**—In reviewing funding options, the Comptroller General shall dis-
tinguish between spaceports that are funded by
users and those that are not.

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