

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 28

BY SENATOR CROWE AND REPRESENTATIVE GAROFALO

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on its significant accomplishments, both technical and scientific, and the Michoud Assembly Facility for its contributions to these advances, which have positively impacted both the nation and the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, NASA and the state of Louisiana share a commitment of promoting the growth of a well-trained aerospace workforce and sustaining world class manufacturing capabilities, such as those at Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, where work is under way on elements of NASA's Space Launch System (SLS), including the heavy-lift vehicle that will usher in a new era of exploration and discovery beyond earth's orbit, and the Orion Multipurpose Crew Vehicle; and

WHEREAS, Michoud contributed the primary structure, or the "hull", of the vehicle in addition to carbon fiber components of the Launch Abort System, the Service Module, and the Orion capsule for last December's successful SLS Exploration Flight Test-1 and is the current construction site of flight hardware for the upcoming SLS Exploration Mission 1; and

WHEREAS, Michoud is also home to the recently completed, state-of-the-art one hundred seventy-foot tall, seventy-eight-foot wide Vertical Assembly Center, the largest spacecraft welding tool in the world that will be utilized to build the SLS core stages; and

WHEREAS, NASA and the Louisiana Space Consortium (LaSPACE) share in common the goal of fostering aerospace-related, interdisciplinary, science, technology, and engineering research and education at Louisiana schools, colleges, and universities in an effort to promote careers in Louisiana in these areas of scientific endeavor; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, NASA and the state of Louisiana signed a five-year extension of an agreement, an investment worth sixty-two million dollars, to continue supporting the National Center for Advanced Manufacturing, which is located at Michoud and provides research and advanced manufacturing technology for use in aerospace and commercial markets; and

WHEREAS, NASA's Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) program stimulates technological innovation by encouraging small, high-tech companies, particularly those that are minority and disadvantaged businesses, to partner with NASA to help meet its research and development needs in key technology areas, investing to date nearly six hundred thousand dollars in five Louisiana companies; and

WHEREAS, NASA Spinoffs, a technology transfer program, has benefitted Louisiana in the areas of decontamination of polluted soil and groundwater, providing forecasting models for storm surge predictions, weather models, and fishing hot spots, enabling the remote transfer of high-speed digital data, and lowering costs and reducing manufacturing time for the prosthetic industry; and

WHEREAS, NASA created the Gulf of Mexico Initiative (GOMI) to enhance the region's ability to recover from the devastating hurricanes of 2005, including Katrina and Rita, and to plan for a sustainable and prosperous future through the use of NASA Earth science observations and research, including the Earth Observing System and the Earth Observatory, which, among many other tasks, tracks the loss of Louisiana's coastline and the growth of two Atchafalaya deltas; and

WHEREAS, since 2008, NASA has invested nineteen million dollars through Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences (ROSES) to assist Louisiana's citizens throughout the region to better understand the environment and make informed decisions; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the state of Louisiana are indeed exceedingly proud of their state's role in the American space program and the tremendous advances in space exploration and scientific progress that cooperation with NASA has yielded.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby

commend the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on its significant accomplishments, both technical and scientific, and the Michoud Assembly Facility for its contributions to these advances, which have positively impacted both the nation and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to NASA Marshall Space Flight Center Director, Patrick Scheuermann.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES