

Congressman Bill Posey  
Testimony before the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,  
Related Agencies  
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Chairman Wolf, ranking member Fattah and Members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to come before you today to respectfully urge you to restore and preserve NASA's core mission: human space flight.

Our investments in NASA's human space flight program are a matter of economic and national security.

We were starkly reminded of this just a few weeks ago when the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, General Burgess, highlighted the risks posed by China through their investments in human space flight. Testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee he said of China, "[Their] space program, including ostensible civil projects, supports China's growing ability to deny or degrade the space assets of potential adversaries and enhance China's conventional military capabilities." He went on to add, "China's successfully tested a direct ascent anti-satellite weapon (ASAT) missile and is developing jammers and directed-energy weapons for ASAT missions. A prerequisite for ASAT attacks, China's ability to track and identify satellites is enhanced by technologies from China's manned and lunar programs as well as technologies and methods developed to detect and track space debris." Let me repeat that. China's military advances are a direct result of "China's manned and lunar program."

We were reminded of this not long ago when debris from Chinese satellite target practice came critically close to the International Space Station, nearly jeopardizing the station and its crew.

Space is the world's military high ground. It is to the United States and the free world, what the Golan Heights is to Israel. China understands this and I hope that America still believes this.

China is now on track to launch "100 rockets, 100 satellites" from 2011 to 2015. On average, China will complete about 20 launch missions each year by 2015. Last year, China surpassed the United States with 19 satellite launches to our 18 launches and is only No. 2 in terms of launches to Russia's 36.

For 2012, China is planning 30 launches including China's first manned space rendezvous and docking with China's space laboratory Tiangong-1 between June and August. According to China Daily, in 2011 China generated \$15.8 billion in operating revenue from launching satellites alone - an amount just shy of the entire NASA budget.

Abdicating space leadership will compromise our economic competitiveness, as our investment in human space flight is a key driver of advanced technologies with commercial applications. We cannot afford to give this up.

As you move forward with the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill, I look forward to working with you to prioritize funding for human space flight within the overall NASA budget – Orion multi-purpose crew vehicle, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Launch facility upgrades at Kennedy, SLS, and sufficient funding to advance commercial cargo and crew. I am submitting additional information on each of these. Chairman Wolf, I appreciate your personal interest in these key priorities.

Today, we are in the untenable position of having no domestic means of putting a U.S. astronaut into space – yet China and Russia both have that capability.

Our human space flight program is suffering from a lack of clear vision and mission from the Administration and as a result the U.S. is on the cusp of ceding its leadership in space to our adversaries. This is not in our national security interest nor is it in our economic security interests.

It cannot be overstated how our investments in human space flight have helped us maintain our competitive edge economically, provided a significant advantage on the battlefield, and contributed to endless commercial products that have improved every aspect of our daily lives and overall economy. The reality is that our lives depend on space. If you use a cell phone, Blackberry, credit card, GPS or depend on an accurate weather report for growing the food that we eat – you rely on space.

In Fiscal Year 2010, NASA reached its high water mark budget of \$18.7 billion. The FY 2012 NASA budget is \$17.8 billion. And, for FY 2013 the Administration has proposed further reducing NASA's budget to a level of \$17.71 billion – more than a billion dollars less than the FY10 budget.

The time to refocus NASA on its primary human space flight mission is now. The Appropriations Committee has the authority to help NASA set human space flight as a priority. As one planetary scientist who supervised the missions of Mars rovers Spirit and Opportunity and now chairs the NASA Advisory Council put it in an interview in 2009,

“...I’m a robot guy, that’s what I have spent most of my career doing, but I’m actually a very strong supporter of human spaceflight. I believe that the most successful exploration is going to be carried out by humans...not by robots.”

Thank you for your leadership, and for giving me the opportunity to address the committee regarding human space flight—a matter of great economic and national security importance.

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