

Mahoney Supports NASA Funding Legislation

(Palm Beach Gardens, FL) - Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) today voted in favor of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2008, H.R. 6063 to ensure that NASA has the resources it needs to successfully conduct its science, aeronautics, and human spaceflight missions. The bill passed by a vote of 409-15.

Bill
Gives Agency Additional Resources To Conduct Spaceflight Missions and Protect Jobs

(June 18, 2008)

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"I am proud to support this bill giving NASA the resources it needs to keep America safe," said Congressman Mahoney. "When NASA thrives, it means we are protecting jobs at companies like Pratt Whitney, and others throughout the Treasure Coast, and we are better able to retain our highly skilled workforce that is so critical for our space and national defense programs."

H.R. 6063, The National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act, authorizes \$20.2 billion in funding for NASA in FY 2009. This includes \$19.2 billion for NASA programs in science, aeronautics, exploration, and education. The additional \$1 billion in the authorization will accelerate the development of the Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle (CEV) and Ares I Crew Launch Vehicle (CLV), which will replace the Space Shuttle.

The Shuttle will be retired in 2010 and the CEV/CLV is currently not expected to be completed until 2015. The \$1 billion in augmented funding will help close this gap, during which the U.S. will be reliant on other countries or commercial services (if they are available) for transportation to the International Space Station.

H.R.

6063 will also authorize a small business outreach and technical assistance program. This is modeled on a very successful program, and provides free technical assistance from NASA and its partners to help small businesses who cannot afford to have a rocket scientist or engineer on the payroll.

NASA

is the nation's primary civil space and aeronautics R&D agency, its current civil service workforce consists of approximately 18,400 employees. Without this legislation, NASA's authorization would expire on September 30, 2008.

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