

Highlights of H.R. _____, the NASA Authorization for 2016 and 2017

The authorization includes policy provisions that passed the House of Representatives earlier this year by unanimous consent, but await action by the Senate. This authorization preserves the bipartisan agreement on policy provisions and updates it to authorize funding levels for fiscal year (FY)16 and FY17.

This bill fully complies with the Budget Control Act (BCA) and provides for increased authorizations in the event that the BCA is repealed, replaced, or amended; or if off-sets are identified within existing discretionary spending accounts to allow for increases. FY16 and FY17 authorizations are aspirational levels that match the President's Budget Request (PBR) top-lines and readjust subaccount levels to align with national priorities. FY17 is a 1.5 percent increase for inflation in line with PBR. If BCA relief or off-sets are not found, then authorizations are limited to constrained levels.

Aspirational levels create a balanced portfolio between Exploration and Science (\$4.95 billion each), and within the Science Mission Directorate (\$1.45B for Earth Science, \$1.5 billion for Planetary Science, and \$2 billion for Astrophysics, the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), and Heliophysics combined).

The bill fully funds the Space Launch System (SLS) and Orion crew vehicle (Orion) under both the aspirational and constrained authorization levels, and accelerates the development of SLS and Orion in FY17 under the aspirational level. Similarly, the bill fully funds the Commercial Crew program under the aspirational level and increases funding under even the constrained level by \$331 million.

Overarching Highlights:

- ✓ The bill is BCA compliant.
- ✓ Authorizes the PBR top-lines and returns balance to NASA's entire portfolio (between science and exploration) as well as within the science portfolio (between earth science and planetary science).
- ✓ Fully supports SLS and Orion (and increases in FY17)
- ✓ Fully supports the Commercial Crew Program
- ✓ Retains bipartisan policy provisions

Highlights from FY16:

- SLS at \$1.7 billion
- Orion at \$1.2 billion
- Fully funds Commercial Crew
- Planetary science at \$1.5 billion
- Earth science at \$1.45 billion
- Space Operations increased from FY15

Highlights from FY17:

- SLS at \$1.9 billion
- Orion at \$1.35 billion
- Fully funds Commercial Crew
- Planetary science at \$1.5 billion
- Earth science at \$1.45 billion
- Space Operations increased from FY15

Highlights from constrained authorization level:

- SLS at \$1.7 billion
- Orion at \$1.2 billion
- Increases Commercial Crew \$331 million over FY15
- Planetary at \$1.5 billion
- Space Operations increased from FY15