



COMMITTEE ON  
**SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY**  
Lamar Smith, Chairman

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**Statement from Mo Brooks (R-Ala.)**  
*Full Committee Markup*

**Vice Chairman Brooks:** As the congressman for the Tennessee Valley and North Alabama, I appreciate the unique and valuable contribution that rocket propulsion has provided our country.

The best way forward for the United States to maintain its leadership position in space exploration and utilization is to support our nation's work and investment in rocket propulsion because rocket propulsion is the foundational capability for everything we do in space. By way of background, in my district, the Marshall Space Flight Center provides expertise in solid and liquid rocket propulsion, as well as advanced rocket propulsion technology to enable a wide array of future activity in space.<sup>1</sup>

Over the last several years, America has witnessed the beginnings of a resurgence in the rocket propulsion industry. As these traditional and emerging actors continue to move forward, it is important that we support healthy cooperation and communication between these companies and the federal government to ensure we maintain a robust and healthy rocket propulsion industry in the United States.

As this committee continues its work to guide our national space policy, we must ensure a strong foundation and bold leadership in rocket propulsion. A robust industrial base that can develop and capitalize on better rocket propulsion technology.

Therefore, I have introduced the American Leadership in Space Technology and Advanced Rocketry Act of 2018, also known as the ALSTAR Act. This bill will ensure the long-term stability of the rocket propulsion industry through better coordination and collaboration between all relevant stakeholders. This bill also directs Marshall to explore, develop and mature new rocket propulsion technology in cooperation with partners across and outside of government. This new growth, while building on a strong foundation, will ensure that America remains at the forefront of space exploration.

NASA must once again challenge itself to reach far beyond its limits. Through our increased attention, focus, and support of the utilization of space and the exploration

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nasa.gov/centers/marshall/propulsion/index.html>

of deep space we will be able to once again inspire the next generation to look to the stars and aspire to do the impossible.

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