



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

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Media Contact: Thea McDonald
(202) 225-6371

Statement of Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas)

H.R. 1159, the United States and Israel Space Cooperation Act

Chairman Smith: Israel and the United States have a long history of shared cooperation, including space exploration and research.

Scientists have collaborated on space research to advance both nations' understanding of the universe.

NASA and the Israeli Space Agency have also formalized their cooperation in various agreements over the last 30 years.

Our two countries were bonded in 2003, when the first Israeli astronaut, Ilan Ramon, perished along with the other members of the Space Shuttle Columbia crew.

Since then, Israel and the United States have cooperated on various experiments and space activities to the benefit of both nations.

On October 13th, 2015, NASA and the Israeli Space Agency entered into a 10 year agreement to continue cooperation on areas of mutual interest in space.

This agreement laid out the terms and conditions that will facilitate future cooperation, including export controls, technology transfer guidelines, intellectual property protections, and facility and system access controls. These terms and conditions will ensure that our partnership is productive and fruitful.

This legislation was introduced by Derek Kilmer, a former member of this Committee, and Jim Bridenstine, a current member. It reinforces cooperation between the United States and Israel, and advances our common goal of space exploration.

I support the legislation and recommend it to my colleagues.

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