

COMMITTEE ON  
**SCIENCE, SPACE, AND  
TECHNOLOGY**  
CHAIRMAN LAMAR SMITH



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**Statement of Space Subcommittee Chairman Steven Palazzo (R-Miss.)  
Markup of the *NASA Authorization Act of 2014***

**Chairman Palazzo:** The bill and amendment before the Subcommittee this morning reflect a true bipartisan agreement.

I want to thank my colleague, the Ranking Member, Ms. Edwards for her hard work, determination, and patience in putting together this consensus agreement with me. The Ranking Member and I don't always see eye-to-eye, but the provisions contained in the agreement are a testament that Republicans and Democrats can work together in an effective manner for the good of the nation.

The agreement before us today will enable NASA to continue its proud tradition as the preeminent civilian space agency in the world. The agreement is not perfect, nor is it complete, but it is a reflection of good faith efforts on both sides to continue working together to write common-sense policy. Congress has been consistent in its support for the Space Launch System, Orion crew capsule, Commercial Crew Program, and the James Webb Space Telescope. These priorities are clearly reflected in the agreement and represent yet another affirmation of policy already contained in federal law.

The agreement before us today makes absolutely clear that NASA's goal for the human space flight program should be to send humans to Mars. It is also the Committee's intent to be clear that proposals that cannot be proven essential to a Mars mission be removed from this portfolio. For this purpose, the agreement provides a framework for the development of an exploration roadmap, which is critical to ensure every taxpayer dollar is spent effectively and efficiently. A clear and detailed roadmap is a reasonable and necessary requirement for future development efforts at NASA.

The bill seeks to limit US dependence on Russia for access to low earth orbit and the International Space Station. As the Administrator said last week before this Subcommittee (and again yesterday), budgets are about choices. I could not agree more. That is why this bill allows NASA to better focus its efforts on once more launching American astronauts on American rockets from American soil.

The development of deep space capabilities is of the utmost importance for this Subcommittee. Members on both sides of the aisle have expressed disappointment in the Administration's insufficient budget requests for the Space Launch System and Orion crew capsule. This agreement makes it clear that SLS and Orion are top priorities for Congress and the American people.

Additionally, the agreement contains continued direction for the on-time and on-budget development of the James Webb Space Telescope. The completion of the JWST has been a top priority, and we expect NASA will continue to treat it as such.

I am proud of the good work this subcommittee has done. I'm sure my colleagues would agree that finding bipartisan agreement in an austere budget environment is never an easy task, and our work is not done. But this Subcommittee is well-served by an excellent negotiating partner in Ms. Edwards and a supportive full Committee Chairman and Ranking Member.

I look forward to working together with my friends on the other side of the aisle to make additional changes on provisions important to Republicans and Democrats as we move this bill to the full Committee and House floor.