

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 6

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By: **Senators Mathias, Eckardt, Hershey, Jennings, King, Lee, Madaleno, Manno, McFadden, Middleton, Montgomery, Norman, Rosapepe, Waugh, and Zirkin**
Introduced and read first time: March 2, 2015
Assigned to: Rules

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Business and Economic Development – NASA Wallops Flight Facility –**
3 **Commercial Rocket Boosters and Spacecraft**

4 FOR the purpose of urging the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to
5 conduct an environmental impact study related to landing commercial booster
6 rockets and spacecraft at its Wallops Flight Facility; providing that a copy of this
7 resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to certain
8 individuals; and generally relating to the NASA Wallops Flight Facility.

9 WHEREAS, The Wallops Flight Facility, a rocket launch site and research center
10 that is owned and managed exclusively by NASA, is located on Virginia's Eastern Shore,
11 just 5 miles from the Maryland border; and

12 WHEREAS, The Wallops Flight Facility has been touted by Maryland's leadership
13 as having enormous economic potential value in the State and, according to an economic
14 value study conducted by researchers at Salisbury University, Wallops generates nearly
15 \$190,000,000 in revenues and 2,300 jobs for the Lower Eastern Shore counties; and

16 WHEREAS, The Wallops Flight Facility, as one of only four locations in the United
17 States licensed to launch orbital spacecraft, is positioned to compete for a share of the
18 increasing market for commercial space launches that would further expand economic
19 opportunities for the Lower Eastern Shore counties and the entire State; and

20 WHEREAS, The commercial space launch industry is in a dynamic state with the
21 development of innovative, fully reusable booster rockets; and

22 WHEREAS, It is essential to keep the commercial space launch capabilities at the
23 Wallops Flight Facility competitive in a changing market, which is expected to continue
24 growing through the end of the decade; and



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1 WHEREAS, An environmental impact study by the U.S. Air Force relating to landing
2 first stage Falcon 9 boosters at Cape Canaveral, Florida is near completion and is a study
3 that the Federal Aviation Administration will review prior to issuing any launch or landing
4 permits; and

5 WHEREAS, For the Wallops Flight Facility to remain competitive with Cape
6 Canaveral and similar facilities, it is important for NASA to undertake an environmental
7 impact study related to landing fully reusable space launch booster rockets and human
8 space flight from its Wallops Flight Facility; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General
10 Assembly urges the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to conduct an
11 environmental impact study related to landing commercial booster rockets and spacecraft
12 at its Wallops Flight Facility; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
14 Legislative Services to the Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland; the
15 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; the Honorable
16 Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates; Charles F. Bolden, Jr.,
17 Administrator, NASA Headquarters, Washington, D.C. 20546-0001; and William Wrobel,
18 Director, Wallops Flight Facility, Building F6, 34200 Fulton Street, Wallops Island, VA
19 23337.