

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7

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By: **Delegates Adams and Otto**

Introduced and read first time: March 5, 2015

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House 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, Marylanders comprise nearly 50% of the workforce at the Wallops  
13 Flight Facility, which generates nearly \$190,000,000 in revenues and 2,300 jobs for the  
14 Lower Eastern Shore counties and has been touted by Maryland's leadership as having  
15 enormous economic potential in the State; 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

25 WHEREAS, An environmental impact study by the U.S. Air Force relating to landing  
26 first stage Falcon 9 boosters at Cape Canaveral, Florida is near completion and is a study



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1 that the Federal Aviation Administration will review prior to issuing any launch or landing  
2 permits; and

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

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

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