

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 121

BY SENATOR CROWE

A RESOLUTION

To commend the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Michoud Assembly Facility for their remarkable technical and scientific contributions made to the state of Louisiana and the United States of America.

WHEREAS, NASA and the state of Louisiana share a commitment to promote the growth of a well-trained aerospace workforce and to sustain world class manufacturing capabilities, such as those at Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, where work is under way on elements of NASA's Space Launch System, including the heavy-lift vehicle that will usher in a new era of space exploration and discovery beyond earth's orbit and the Orion Multipurpose Crew Vehicle; and

WHEREAS, NASA and the Louisiana Space Consortium (LaSPACE) share in common the goal of fostering aerospace-related, interdisciplinary, science, technology and engineering research and education in Louisiana schools, colleges, and universities in an effort to promote careers in Louisiana in these areas of scientific endeavor; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, NASA and the state of Louisiana signed a five year extension on an agreement, an investment worth sixty-two million dollars, to continue supporting the National Center for Advanced Manufacturing which is located at Michoud and provides research and advanced manufacturing technology for use in aerospace and commercial markets; and

WHEREAS, NASA's Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) program stimulates technological innovation by encouraging small, high-tech companies, particularly minority and disadvantaged businesses, to partner with NASA to help meet its research and development needs in key technology areas, investing, to date, nearly six hundred thousand dollars in five Louisiana companies; and

WHEREAS, NASA has inspired "spinoffs" which have benefitted Louisiana in the decontamination of polluted soil and groundwater, providing forecasting models for storm surge predictions, weather models, and fishing hotspots, enabling the remote transfer of

high-speed digital data, and lowering costs and reducing manufacturing time for the prosthetic industry; and

WHEREAS, NASA created the Gulf of Mexico Initiative (GOMI) to enhance the region's ability to recover from the devastating hurricanes of 2005 and to plan for a sustainable and prosperous future through the use of NASA earth science observations and research and, since 2008, NASA has invested nineteen million dollars through Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences (ROSES) to assist Louisiana's citizens throughout the region to better understand the environment and make informed decisions; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the state of Louisiana are indeed exceedingly proud of their state's critical role in the American Space Program and the tremendous advances in space exploration and scientific contributions made to the state of Louisiana and the United States of America.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extol the incomparable accomplishments of NASA and the Michoud Assembly Facility and the remarkable technical and scientific contributions made by both to the state of Louisiana and to the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to be to Charles Frank Bolden Jr., the administrator of the National Aeronautic and Space Administration.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE