

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4719

To direct the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to submit to Congress a report on the merits of, and options for, establishing an institute relating to space resources, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER (for himself and Mr. LAMBORN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

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## A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to submit to Congress a report on the merits of, and options for, establishing an institute relating to space resources, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Space Resources Insti-  
5       tute Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REPORT ON MERITS AND OPTIONS FOR ESTAB-**  
2 **LISHING AN INSTITUTE RELATING TO SPACE**  
3 **RESOURCES.**

4 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
5 of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall sub-  
6 mit to the appropriate congressional committees a report  
7 on the merits of, and options for, establishing an institute  
8 relating to space resources to advance the objectives of  
9 NASA in maintaining United States preeminence in space.  
10 Such objectives shall include the following:

11 (1) Identifying, developing, and distributing  
12 space resources, including by encouraging the devel-  
13 opment of foundational science and technology.

14 (2) Reducing the technological risks associated  
15 with identifying, developing, and distributing space  
16 resources.

17 (3) Developing options for using space re-  
18 sources to—

19 (A) support current and future space ar-  
20 chitectures, programs, and missions; and

21 (B) enable such architectures, programs,  
22 and missions that would not otherwise be pos-  
23 sible.

24 (b) ADDITIONAL MATTERS.—The report required  
25 under subsection (a) shall also include the following as-  
26 sessments of the Administrator:

1           (1) Whether a virtual or physical institute relat-  
2           ing to space resources is most cost effective and ap-  
3           propriate.

4           (2) Whether partnering with institutions of  
5           higher education and the aerospace industry, and  
6           the extractive industry as appropriate, would be ef-  
7           fective in increasing information available to the in-  
8           stitute with respect to advancing the objectives de-  
9           scribed in subsection (a).

10       (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11           (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
12           trator” means the Administrator of NASA.

13           (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
14           TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
15           mittees” means—

16                (A) the Committee on Science, Space, and  
17                Technology of the House of Representatives;  
18                and

19                (B) the Committee on Commerce, Science,  
20                and Transportation of the Senate.

21           (3) EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY.—The term “ex-  
22           tractive industry” means companies and individuals  
23           involved in the processes of extracting, including  
24           mining, quarrying, drilling, and dredging, raw, nat-  
25           ural materials or energy sources.

1           (4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
2       term “institution of higher education” has the  
3       meaning given such term in section 101(a) of the  
4       Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

5           (5) NASA.—The term “NASA” means the Na-  
6       tional Aeronautics and Space Administration.

7           (6) SPACE RESOURCE.—

8               (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “space re-  
9       source” means an abiotic resource in situ in  
10      outer space.

11              (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “space re-  
12      source” includes a raw, natural material or en-  
13      ergy source.

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