

100<sup>th</sup> Congress  
2d Session

# H.R. 4218

To require the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to investigate and promote the development of human settlements in space, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 22, 1988

Mr. BROWN of California (for himself, Mr. WALKER, Mr. VOLKMER, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. PERKINS, and Mr. BATEMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

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## A BILL

To require the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to investigate and promote the development of human settlements in space, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

The Act may be cited as the "Space Settlement Act of 1988".

### **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

The Congress finds that—

(1) the United States space program has challenged mankind to travel beyond planet Earth and has provided the opportunity to expand human knowledge, to extend the limits of human consciousness, and to improve the human condition;

(2) the National Commission on Space, chartered by Congress and established by the President, declared space settlements as a long-range objective of the American space program;

(3) exploring, prospecting, and settling are parts of our heritage and will most assuredly be parts of our future;

(4) the United States space policy needs long-range goals and direction in order to provide understanding for near-term space projects and programs;

(5) the establishment of space settlements will inspire generations of future Americans;  
and

(6) human settlement of space is fully consistent with the policies and objectives of the Nation's space program as articulated in the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958.

### **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ACT OF 1958.**

(a) DECLARATION OF POLICY AND PURPOSE.—Section 102 of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (42 U.S.C. 2451) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (h) as subsections (e) through (I), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

“(d) The Congress declares that the extension of human life beyond Earth's atmosphere for the purposes of advancing science, exploration, and development will enhance the general welfare on Earth and that such extensions will eventually lead to the establishment of space settlements for the greater fulfillment of those purposes.”; and

(3) in subsection (i) as so redesignated by paragraph (1) of this subsection, by striking “and (g)” and inserting in lieu thereof “, (g), and (h)”.

(b) DEFINITION.—Section 103 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 2452) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” from the end of paragraph (1);

(2) by striking the period from the end of paragraph (2) and inserting in lieu thereof “; and”;

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) the term ‘space settlement’ means any community of humans living beyond Earth's atmosphere which exists with a substantial degree of independence of resupply from Earth.”.

#### **SEC. 4. SPACE SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES.**

(a) **SPACE SETTLEMENT INFORMATION.**—Consistent with the national security interests of the United States, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall, in close cooperation with other appropriate agencies, the private sector, academia, and the international community, obtain, produce, and provide information relating to all issues important for the development and establishment of space settlements, including essential technologies.

(b) **REPORT.**—Once every 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Act, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall submit a report to the President and to Congress which—

(1) analyzes ways in which current science and technology can be applied to the establishment of space settlements;

(2) identifies scientific and technological capacity for establishing space settlements, including a description of what steps must be taken to develop such capacity;

(3) examines alternative space settlement locations and architectures;

(4) examines the status of technologies necessary for extraterrestrial resource development and use and energy production;

(5) reviews the ways in which the existence of space settlements would enhance science, exploration, and development;

(6) reviews mechanisms and institutional options which could foster a broad-based plan for international cooperation in establishing space settlements;

(7) analyzes the economics of financing space settlements, especially with respect to private sector and international participation;

(8) discusses sociological factors involved in space settlement such as psychology, political science, and legal issues; and

(9) addresses such other topics as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration considers appropriate.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for the purposes of this Act for each of the fiscal years ending September 30, 1989, September 30, 1990, and September 30, 1991, not to exceed \$3,000,000.

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# Congressman George Brown

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## CONGRESSMAN BROWN CALLS FOR SPACE SETTLEMENTS AS A LONG-RANGE OBJECTIVE

Congressman George E. Brown, Jr. today introduced "The Space Settlement Act of 1988," a bill that would establish human settlement of the space frontier as a long-range national objective. Brown said, "With this legislation I hope to bring about a clear understanding that space is the extended home of humanity, and it is completely appropriate that Congress and the White House begin including space settlement as part of the broad framework for space policy."

Brown's legislation would amend the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 to include the following paragraph:

"The Congress declares that the extension of human life beyond Earth's atmosphere for the purposes of advancing science, exploration, and development will enhance the general welfare on Earth and that such extensions will eventually lead to the establishment of space settlements for the greater fulfillment of those purposes."

Under the Brown bill, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) would be required to obtain, produce, and provide information relating to all issues important for the development and establishment of space settlements. These activities would be performed in close cooperation with other agencies, the private sector, academia, and the international community.

Brown's legislation would require NASA to prepare a report every two years for Congress and the White House on various issues relating to the establishment of space settlements, such as assessing technology needs, reviewing techniques for remote resource utilization, evaluating site options, reviewing architecture options, examining economic models for financing, studying mechanisms for international cooperation, and reviewing sociological issues.

Brown has said "The Space Settlement Act of 1988" is consistent with the President's National Space Policy announced in January. "The President's policy for the first time proclaims the national goal of expanding human presence and activity into the solar system," he said. "My bill builds on this statement, by declaring that such expansion eventually will lead to the establishment of space settlement." Brown added, "Human activities on the Moon and Mars will not progress far before it will become evident that space settlements are a desirable and cost-

effective way to pursue the long-term goal of opening the solar system for science, exploration, and development. It only seems logical to state this intention up front, in order to allow space settlements to become a permanent part of policy planning.”

Congress is currently involved in a battle over the fate of the space program and other science funding. The Budget and Appropriations Committees are expected to make large cuts in the space and science budget requests for Fiscal Year 1989. Brown said, “I have chosen to introduce this legislation during this dark hour in NASA’s history in the hopes that it will, in some way, provide inspiration through these difficult years.”

Supporting statements for “The Space Settlement Act of 1988” can be found in the report of the National Commission on Space, “Pioneering the Space Frontier,” and the internal NASA study headed by Dr. Sally K. Ride, “Leadership and America’s Future in Space.” Brown said, “Space settlement as an ultimate objective is explicit in both of these studies.” The Ride report states plainly, “Exploring, prospecting, and settling are parts of heritage and will most assuredly be parts of our future.” The National Commission on Space report is more specific on space settlement because it declares that the United States should build “institutions and systems that make accessible vast new resources and support human settlements beyond Earth orbit, from the highlands of the Moon to the plains of Mars.”

Brown is a senior member of the House Committees on Agriculture and on Science, Space, and Technology, and chairs the Agriculture Subcommittee on Department Operations, Research and Foreign Agriculture. He is also a member of the congressional Office of Technology Assessment executive board.

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