

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1479

To require the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to continue modernization efforts with respect to Federal rocket propulsion test infrastructure at National Aeronautics and Space Administration centers.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 10, 2025

Mr. WICKER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To require the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to continue modernization efforts with respect to Federal rocket propulsion test infrastructure at National Aeronautics and Space Administration centers.

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 “Building Out Opti-
5 mized Space Testing for Engines Act” or the “BOOST
6 for Engines Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
4 trator” means the Administrator of the National
5 Aeronautics and Space Administration.

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

8 **SEC. 3. ROCKET ENGINE TEST INFRASTRUCTURE.**

9 (a) MODERNIZATION PROGRAM.—The Administrator
10 shall continue to carry out a program to modernize rocket
11 propulsion test infrastructure at NASA facilities—

12 (1) to increase capabilities;

13 (2) to enhance safety;

14 (3) to support propulsion development and test-
15 ing; and

16 (4) to foster the improvement of Government
17 and commercial space transportation and explo-
18 ration.

19 (b) PROJECTS.—Projects funded under the program
20 described in subsection (a) may include—

21 (1) infrastructure and other facilities and sys-
22 tems relating to rocket propulsion test stands and
23 rocket propulsion testing;

24 (2) enhancements to test facility capacity and
25 flexibility; and

1 (3) such other projects as the Administrator
2 considers appropriate to meet the goals described in
3 that subsection.

4 (c) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the program
5 under subsection (a), the Administrator shall—

6 (1) prioritize investments in projects that en-
7 hance test and flight certification capabilities for
8 large thrust-level atmospheric and altitude engines
9 and engine systems, and multi-engine integrated test
10 capabilities;

11 (2) continue to make underutilized test facilities
12 available for commercial use on a reimbursable
13 basis;

14 (3) evaluate NASA center-specific agreements
15 with commercial entities to ensure that costs reflect
16 the impacted location rather than the cost of the
17 highest national agreement; and

18 (4) ensure that no project carried out under
19 such program adversely impacts, delays, or defers
20 testing or other activities associated with facilities
21 used for Government programs, including—

22 (A) the Space Launch System and the Ex-
23 ploration Upper Stage of the Space Launch
24 System;

1 (B) in-space propulsion to support explo-
2 ration missions; and

3 (C) nuclear propulsion testing.

4 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
5 tion shall preclude a NASA program, including the Space
6 Launch System and the Exploration Upper Stage of the
7 Space Launch System, from using the modernized test in-
8 frastructure developed under this section.

○