II

98TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1861

To authorize the development of a new generation land remote sensing satellite, and to ensure the role of the United States as the world leader in developing and utilizing land remote sensing technology through the Landsat program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 20 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 19), 1983

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

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A BILL

To authorize the development of a new generation land remote sensing satellite, and to ensure the role of the United States as the world leader in developing and utilizing land remote sensing technology through the Landsat program.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Land Remote Sensing Satellite Authorization Act of 1983".

FINDINGS, PURPOSES, AND POLICY

SECTION 1. (a) The Congress finds and declares that—

(1) the United States is currently the world leader in developing land remote sensing satellite technology

through the Landsat program, but is in danger of falling behind or completely losing its market to foreign competitors;

(2) land remote sensing from satellites can assist in the proper and rational management of our global resources and environment by providing data on natural and manmade features on and around the surface of the Earth, which is used in such applications as continental crop yield forecasting, pollution control, energy and mineral exploration, disaster control, cartography, urban planning, and land use management;

(3) the public interest is served by the valuable and useful land remote sensing satellite data which are expected to be in greater demand in the future if such data remains available on a continuous, timely, and reliable basis; and

(4) the Federal Government should guarantee continuity of land remote sensing satellite data until the private sector can own and operate a similar system consistent with the findings, purposes, and policies contained herein.

(b) It is declared to be the purposes of the Congress in this Act that—

(1) the United States shall remain the world leader in developing land remote sensing by utilizing

available technological advances necessary to protect our world market against recent advances of foreign competitors;

(2) a new generation land remote sensing satellite shall be built and launched to ensure United States data continuity to our world and domestic market users; and

(3) any United States land remote sensing satellite system shall be operated in a manner consistent with international obligations of the United States.

(c) It is declared to be the policy of the Congress in this Act that—

(1) the United States should take steps to ensure, on an equitable, nondiscriminatory basis, dissemination of data from any United States land remote sensing satellite system; and

(2) all nations have the right to acquire certain data from space systems in outer space and to disseminate that data widely.

AUTHORIZATION OF LAND REMOTE SENSING SATELLITE

SEC. 2. Section 203 of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (42 U.S.C. 2473) is amended by adding the following new subsection at the end thereof:

"(d) The Administration is authorized and directed to plan and provide for the development, management, and op-

eration of a civil land remote sensing satellite system utilizing and advancing the developments in land remote sensing technology.".

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 3. There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out the provisions of section 203(d) of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958.

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