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98TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4030

To authorize the continuation of the land remote sensing satellite program (Landsat), and to ensure the United States role as the world leader in developing and utilizing land remote sensing space technology through the Landsat program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 29, 1983

Mr. BROOKS (for himself, Mr. HORTON, Mr. WRIGHT, and Mr. BROWN of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology

A BILL

To authorize the continuation of the land remote sensing satellite program (Landsat), and to ensure the United States role as the world leader in developing and utilizing land remote sensing space technology through the Landsat program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That this Act may be cited as the "Land Remote Sensing
4 Satellite Authorization Act of 1983".

5 FINDINGS, PURPOSES, AND POLICY

6 SEC. 2. (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds and de-
7 clares that—

1 (1) for the past decade the United States has been
2 the undisputed leader in land remote sensing space
3 technology;

4 (2) during that decade the United States land
5 remote sensing program, known as Landsat, has been
6 found to be valuable in agriculture, hydrology, geology,
7 land use planning, environmental monitoring, and sur-
8 veying ocean resources in the United States and
9 throughout the world;

10 (3) many foreign nations have seen the value of
11 Landsat data and have invested considerable resources
12 in building and operating eleven Landsat ground sta-
13 tions around the world to the benefit of the United
14 States as well as other foreign nations;

15 (4) Landsat imagery has proven to be a valuable
16 foreign aid tool and has been used by over forty devel-
17 oping nations to gain vital information about their land,
18 resources and people;

19 (5) continuous, nondiscriminatory provision of
20 Landsat data is essential for all user nations; and

21 (6) the premature failure of the present Landsat
22 satellite and the decision to build no further following-
23 on satellites jeopardize the integrity of the entire Land-
24 sat system as well as the leadership position of the
25 United States in land remote sensing from space.

1 (b) PURPOSES.—It is the purpose of this Act—

2 (1) to maintain the United States leadership posi-
3 tion in land remote sensing space technology;

4 (2) to assure the continuity of the Landsat pro-
5 gram; and

6 (3) to fully honor the United States commitments
7 and obligations to foreign users of Landsat.

8 (c) POLICY.—It is therefore the policy of the United
9 States that—

10 (1) the United States should take immediate steps
11 to assure the continuation of the Landsat program; and

12 (2) the United States should assure all users of
13 Landsat, present and future, that there will be contin-
14 ual transmittal of data and that such data will be dis-
15 tributed in a nondiscriminatory fashion.

16 AUTHORIZATION OF LAND REMOTE SENSING SATELLITE

17 SEC. 3. Section 203 of the National Aeronautics and
18 Space Act of 1958 (42 U.S.C. 2473) is amended by adding
19 the following new subsection at the end thereof:

20 “(d) The Administration is authorized and directed to
21 plan and provide for the development, management, and op-
22 eration of a civil land remote sensing satellite system utilizing
23 and advancing the developments in land remote sensing tech-
24 nology.”.

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1 **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS**

2 **SEC. 4.** There is authorized to be appropriated such
3 sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of sec-
4 tion 203(d) of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of
5 1958 as amended by section 3 of this Act.

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