

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 406

Establishing a Select Committee on Aerospace in the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 15, 2004

Mrs. MURRAY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

RESOLUTION

Establishing a Select Committee on Aerospace in the United States.

Whereas the aerospace sector of the United States economy generates economic activity equal to 15 percent of the Nation's Gross Domestic Product and supports approximately 11,000,000 American jobs;

Whereas the United States aerospace industry directly employs 574,600 people of the United States, the lowest employment level of United States workers since World War II;

Whereas employment in the United States aerospace industry is down 57 percent, as more than 750,000 jobs have been lost since 1989;

Whereas the United States share of the global aerospace market fell from 72 percent in 1985 to less than 52 percent today;

Whereas according to the Commission on the Future of the United States Aerospace Industry, “Foreign government subsidies directly affect the competitiveness of our companies. Subsidized prime manufacturers as well as suppliers are able to undercut prices offered by their U.S. competitors, and are better able to weather market downturns. Subsidized companies are able to secure cheaper commercial financing since their governments share the risk associated with bringing new products to market. Subsidized production skews the market itself by flooding it with products that are not commercially viable. Governments providing the subsidies also apply political pressure on customers in an effort to facilitate a positive return on the governments’ investments. In many cases, these government subsidies stifle competition and often slow the introduction of new technology into the market. European funding has had the most dramatic impact on U.S. competitiveness because European products directly compete with United States products in most sectors . . . if we maintain the status quo, U.S. industry will be left to compete against companies that don’t play by the same rules.”;

Whereas the aerospace industry is globally competitive with established nations like the United States and the members of the European Union and faces growing competition from numerous nations, including China, Russia, Brazil, Canada, Japan, and others; and

Whereas numerous public policy issues important to the future of aerospace are now before Congress, including the

United States air traffic control system, export controls, the aerospace workforce, homeland security, national security, foreign competition, research and development, mathematics and science education, corporate tax and export promotion, and others: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*,

2 **SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a temporary Select Committee on Aerospace in the United States (hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”).

6 (b) COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE.—

7 (1) VOTING MEMBERS.—The Committee shall be composed of 11 Senators, 6 to be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate and 5 to be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

11 (2) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—Ex officio members of the Committee shall include—

13 (A) the majority leader of the Senate;

14 (B) the minority leader of the Senate; and

15 (C) the chairman and ranking member of each of the following committees:

17 (i) The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

19 (ii) The Committee on Finance of the Senate.

3 (iv) The Committee on Appropriations
4 of the Senate.

5 (3) LIMITATIONS ON EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—

6 An ex officio member—

10 (B) shall be a nonvoting member of the
11 Committee.

12 (c) ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEE.—

16 (2) RANKING MEMBER.—The minority leader of
17 the Senate shall designate a ranking member from
18 the members of the Committee.

24 (d) COMMENCEMENT OF STUDY.—The Committee
25 shall commence its study of the aerospace industry under

1 section 2 on January 3, 2005, or upon the date of appoint-
2 ment of the members of the Committee under subsection
3 (b)(1).

4 (e) TERMINATION.—The Committee shall cease to
5 exist on December 31, 2006.

6 **SEC. 2. OPERATION OF THE COMMITTEE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall—

8 (1) make a full and complete study of the
9 United States aerospace industry, including its
10 present and future competitiveness and its impor-
11 tance to the United States and to the global econ-
12 omy; and

13 (2) recommend legislative, administrative, and
14 regulatory remedies, as approved by a majority of
15 the committee members.

16 (b) FOCUS OF STUDY.—The study shall include an
17 examination of—

18 (1) the role of the Federal Government in the
19 aerospace industry;

20 (2) the importance of the aerospace industry to
21 the United States economy;

22 (3) global competition and its impact on the
23 aerospace industry of the United States;

1 (4) technological challenges before the aero-
2 space industry in commercial aircraft and aviation,
3 national security, and space exploration; and

4 (5) workforce development issues in the aero-
5 space industry.

6 SEC. 3. AUTHORITY AND EMPLOYMENT AND COMPENSA-
7 TION OF STAFF.

8 (a) AUTHORITY OF COMMITTEE.—The Committee is
9 authorized to—

10 (1) sit and act, at any time, during the ses-
11 sions, recesses, and adjourned periods of Congress;

16 (3) administer oaths and take testimony; and

17 (4) procure necessary printing and binding.

18 (b) APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION OF STAFF.—

19 The Committee—

20 (1) shall utilize existing staff to the extent pos-
21 sible;

22 (2) may appoint and fix the compensation of
23 such staff as it considers necessary;

6 (c) ADDITIONAL STAFF.—Upon the request of the
7 chairman or ranking member of the Committee, the head
8 of any Federal agency, or of any office in the legislative
9 branch, is authorized to detail, without reimbursement,
10 any of the personnel of such agency or office to the Com-
11 mittee to assist in carrying out its duties.

12 (d) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members and staff of
13 the Committee shall be reimbursed for travel, subsistence,
14 and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the per-
15 formance of the duties vested in the Committee, other
16 than expenses in connection with meetings of the Com-
17 mittee held in the District of Columbia.

18 SEC. 4. COMMITTEE REPORT.

19 The Committee—

20 (1) may make such interim reports as it con-
21 siders necessary; and

22 (2) prior to ceasing operations in accordance
23 with section 1(e), shall submit a final report, to the
24 Senate and to the appropriate Committees of the

1 Senate, which shall contain the results of its study
2 and its recommendations.

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