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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 147

Offered January 9, 2008

Prefiled January 8, 2008

Commending the V-Prize Foundation, Inc., and encouraging the Federal Aviation Administration's Commercial Space Transportation office to conduct a comprehensive study of the domestic and international legal issues associated with transoceanic point-to-point space flight.

Patron—Kilgore

WHEREAS, the V-Prize Foundation, Inc., is a Virginia nonprofit corporation with the purpose of fostering a commercial competition to launch a suborbital vehicle to fly from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport at Wallops Island, Virginia, to a still to be determined location in Europe at recordbreaking speed through air and space; and

WHEREAS, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport is suitable to demonstrate new commercial launch capabilities of suborbital point-to-point spaceflight enabling rapid transport of commercial cargo and human passengers in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, the V-Prize Foundation, Inc., is seeking to execute a Space Act Agreement with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for technical evaluation of technologies so that flexible rules and regulations may be adopted in the near-term future; and

WHEREAS, the V-Prize Foundation, Inc., has engaged the Center for Strategic and International Studies to assist in the evaluation of potential foreign aerospace firm participation in point-to-point suborbital space flight and to measure interest in European governments in granting landing rights for a suborbital vehicle coming from the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Aviation Administration Commercial Space Transportation office licenses and regulates commercial spaceports and commercial space launch vehicles while seeking to ensure compliance with domestic law and international treaty; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend the V-Prize Foundation, Inc., for its vision and efforts to advance rapid suborbital point-to-point space flight competition; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the General Assembly encourage the Federal Aviation Administration's Commercial Space Transportation office to conduct a comprehensive study of the domestic and international legal issues associated with transoceanic point-to-point space flight; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare copies of this resolution for presentation to the V-Prize Foundation, Inc., and Patricia Grace Smith, the associate administrator for Commercial Space Transportation at the Federal Aviation Administration, United States Department of Transportation.

INTRODUCED

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