

OPENING STATEMENT

Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

Space Subcommittee Markup
NASA Authorization Act of 2014

April 9, 2014

Thank you, Mr. Chairman for yielding to me. I will be brief in my remarks. Today's subcommittee markup represents a step forward for NASA. I think we will come out of this markup with an improved NASA reauthorization—not a perfect one, by any means, but definitely a better piece of legislation.

It is also a step forward for our Committee. Chairman Palazzo, Chairman Smith, and their staffs have worked constructively with Ranking Member Edwards and me and our staffs to try to reach agreement on a bipartisan NASA bill—something that had always been a hallmark of this Committee. It has not been easy to get to where we are today, and the Committee's work on this NASA Reauthorization bill is by no means done. However, I greatly appreciate the willingness of Chairman Palazzo and Chairman Smith to work with us, and I look forward to our continued collaboration so that at the end of the process we can have a bill that we will all take pride in having enacted into law.

Ranking Member Edwards has already articulated both a number of the Manager's Amendment's strengths, and some of our remaining concerns about the bill before us today. As a result, I will not spend any time restating them now. I will just close by again making the point that NASA is an important part of our Nation's R&D enterprise. We need to keep it strong and vital, and I think that the Manager's Amendment before today will help us achieve that goal.

Thank you, and I yield back the balance of my time.