

SHORT TITLE: Supporting the selection of the former Clinton-Sherman Air Force Base at Burns Flat, Oklahoma, as a spaceport; endorsing the Florida partnership and encouraging cooperation of all involved.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 46th Legislature (1998)

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 72

By: Taylor and Capps of the
Senate

and

Benson and Bonny of the
House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution supporting the selection of the former Clinton-Sherman Air Force Base at Burns Flat, Oklahoma, as a site for the spaceport; endorsing the Florida partnership and encouraging cooperation among all involved parties; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has signed a contract with Lockheed/Martin to build VentureStar vehicles as replacements for the current space shuttle. The first flight of the VentureStar is scheduled for 2003 and is expected to enter commercial service in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Lockheed/Martin and NASA are seeking a site with a 15,000-foot, all-weather runway for a spaceport. Specifically, they are searching for a sparsely populated area, with a long, wide and thick runway for testing and commercial usage; and

WHEREAS, the former Clinton-Sherman Air Force Base near Burns Flat, Oklahoma, has such a runway that is three feet thick and 150 feet wide. The former air force base also meets all the other criteria required by the contractor; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma has been a leader in aviation since its inception. The state boasts good flying weather, a well-trained work force, thanks to the vocational-technical education system and

its aviation repair technician program, and an industrial base that is familiar with aviation; and

WHEREAS, the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University have renowned Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering Programs and the Oklahoma Vocational-Technical Education System possesses expertise to provide education and training, these together, would significantly enhance the chances of attracting a program such as VentureStar to Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma by partnering with other states would benefit our nation's commercial space launch and landing capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma and any partnering state would be working toward the realization of a common goal by mutual agreement to promote commercial space activity, research and education; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission is working in conjunction with the Florida Spaceport Authority to create an alliance of strategically aligned states, expandable by joint approval, to further the efforts of member states in the commercialization of space technologies; and

WHEREAS, the States of Oklahoma and Florida are in the process of defining the scope of this alliance in the mutual interest of expanding their respective state's opportunities to participate in the commercialization of space technologies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature supports the selection of the former Clinton-Sherman Air Force Base near Burns Flat, Oklahoma, as a launch - land - re-launch and payload processing of the next generation of space launch vehicles.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature endorses an alliance of strategically selected states to foster the commercialization of

space and encourages cooperation among all the parties involved in furthering its efforts.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Lockheed/Martin.

46-2-3075

THC

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