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**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 6063, AS REPORTED  
OFFERED BY MR. GORDON OF TENNESSEE**

In section 303, add at the end the following new subsection:

1 (c) COORDINATION.—The Administrator shall ensure  
2 that sonic boom research is coordinated as appropriate  
3 with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Adminis-  
4 tration, and as appropriate make use of the expertise of  
5 the Partnership for Air Transportation Noise and Emis-  
6 sions Reduction Center of Excellence sponsored by NASA  
7 and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Amend section 305 to read as follows:

8 **SEC. 305. INTERAGENCY RESEARCH INITIATIVE ON THE IM-**  
9 **PACT OF AVIATION ON THE CLIMATE.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal  
11 Aviation Administration, in coordination with NASA and  
12 the United States Climate Change Science Program, shall  
13 establish a research initiative to assess the impact of avia-  
14 tion on the climate and, if warranted, to evaluate ap-  
15 proaches to mitigate that impact.

16 (b) RESEARCH PLAN.—Not later than one year after  
17 the date of enactment of this Act, the participating Fed-

1 eral entities shall jointly develop a plan for the research  
2 program that contains the objectives, proposed tasks, mile-  
3 stones, and 5-year budgetary profile.

Amend section 306 to read as follows (and amend  
the table of contents accordingly):

4 **SEC. 306. RESEARCH ON DESIGN FOR CERTIFICATION.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—Not later than  
6 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Fed-  
7 eral Aviation Administration, in consultation with other  
8 agencies as appropriate, shall establish a research pro-  
9 gram on methods to improve both confidence in and the  
10 timeliness of certification of new technologies for their in-  
11 troduction into the national airspace system.

12 (b) RESEARCH PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after  
13 the date of enactment of this Act, as part of the activity  
14 described in subsection (a), the Federal Aviation Adminis-  
15 tration shall develop a plan for the research program that  
16 contains the objectives, proposed tasks, milestones, and  
17 five-year budgetary profile.

18 (c) REVIEW.—The Administrator of the Federal  
19 Aviation Administration shall have the National Research  
20 Council conduct an independent review of the research  
21 program plan and provide the results of that review to  
22 the Committee on Science and Technology and the Com-  
23 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House

1 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,  
2 Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than  
3 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

In section 504, strike “and high-altitude balloons,”  
and insert “high-altitude balloons, and suborbital reusable  
launch vehicles,”.

In title VII, add at the end the following new section  
(and amend the table of contents accordingly):

4 **SEC. 703. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

5 It is the sense of Congress that NASA’s educational  
6 programs are important sources of inspiration and hands-  
7 on learning for the next generation of engineers and sci-  
8 entists and should be supported. In that regard, programs  
9 such as EarthKAM, which brings NASA directly into  
10 American classrooms by enabling students to talk directly  
11 with Astronauts aboard International Space Station and  
12 take photographs of Earth from space, and NASA involve-  
13 ment in robotics competitions for students of all levels, are  
14 particularly worthy undertakings and NASA should sup-  
15 port them and look for additional opportunities to engage  
16 students through NASA’s space and aeronautics activities.

In section 901, insert “It is further the sense of  
Congress that United States entrepreneurial space com-  
panies have the potential to develop and deliver innova-

tive technology solutions at affordable costs. NASA is encouraged to use United States entrepreneurial space companies to conduct appropriate research and development activities. NASA is further encouraged to seek ways to ensure that firms that rely on fixed-price proposals are not disadvantaged when NASA seeks to procure technology development.” after “provide those services.”.

In title XI, add at the end the following new sections (and amend the table of contents accordingly):

**1 SEC. 1109. REDUCTION-IN-FORCE MORATORIUM.**

2 NASA shall not initiate or implement a reduction-in-  
3 force, or conduct any other involuntary separations of per-  
4 manent, non-Senior Executive Service, civil servant em-  
5 ployees except for cause on charges of misconduct, delin-  
6 quency, or inefficiency prior to December 31, 2010.

**7 SEC. 1110. LIMIT ON THE USE OF TERM POSITIONS.**

8 NASA shall limit the percentage of employees in term  
9 positions, excluding students and cooperatives, within  
10 NASA to less than or equal to ten percent of the total  
11 number of non-Senior Executive Service, civil servant em-  
12 ployees in fiscal year 2009.

1 **SEC. 1111. TEMPORARY CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE OF**  
2 **HEALTH BENEFITS.**

3 (a) Section 8905a (d) of title 5, United States Code,  
4 is amended by adding at the end the following new para-  
5 graph:

6 “(6)(A) If the basis for continued coverage  
7 under this section is, as a result of the termination  
8 of the Space Shuttle Program, an involuntary separa-  
9 tion from a position due to a reduction-in-force or  
10 declination of a directed reassignment or transfer of  
11 function, or a voluntary separation from a surplus  
12 position in the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-  
13 ministration—

14 “(i) the individual shall be liable for not  
15 more than the employee contributions referred  
16 to in paragraph (1)(A)(i); and

17 “(ii) the National Aeronautics and Space  
18 Administration shall pay the remaining portion  
19 of the amount required under paragraph (1)  
20 (A).

21 “(B) This paragraph shall only apply with re-  
22 spect to individuals whose continued coverage is  
23 based on a separation occurring on or after the date  
24 of enactment of this paragraph and before December  
25 31, 2010.

1           “(C) For purposes of this paragraph, “surplus  
2 position” means a position which is—

3           “(i) identified in pre-reduction-in-force  
4 planning as no longer required, and which is ex-  
5 pected to be eliminated under formal reduction-  
6 in-force procedures as a result of the termi-  
7 nation of the Space Shuttle Program; or

8           “(ii) encumbered by an employee who has  
9 received official certification from the National  
10 Aeronautics and Space Administration con-  
11 sistent with the Administration’s career transi-  
12 tion assistance program regulations that the po-  
13 sition is being abolished as a result of the ter-  
14 mination of the Space Shuttle Program.”.

15       (b) Paragraph (1)(A) of such subsection (d) is  
16 amended by striking “(4) and (5)” and inserting “(4), (5),  
17 and (6)”.