By: Jackson S.C.R. No. 6

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Since its inception in 1958, the National

- 3 Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has accomplished many
- 4 great scientific and technological feats, in addition to advancing
- 5 humankind's knowledge of the Earth, and the universe; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Texas, primarily through the work done at the NASA
- 7 Johnson Space Center (JSC) in Houston, has been a leader in the
- 8 research, design, exploration and development of space enterprise
- 9 since the dawn of the space age; and
- 10 WHEREAS, More than 3,000 civil servants with a total payroll
- 11 in excess of \$260 million, and over 12,000 contractor employees
- 12 work at JSC; and
- WHEREAS, the value of contracts with JSC's major contractor
- 14 companies is over \$3 million, representing a significant economic
- impact to both the state and local economies; and
- WHEREAS, Thirty percent of NASA's \$14 billion budget is spent
- in Texas at JSC; and
- 18 WHEREAS, JSC has pioneered breakthroughs in space
- 19 exploration, specifically through the Space Shuttle and
- 20 International Space Station Programs, as well as Astronaut
- 21 selection and training; support of Extravehicular Activities;
- 22 Mission Operations, including the Mission Control Center;
- 23 engineering, biological and physical research; and the care of
- 24 astromaterials; and

WHEREAS, Texas colleges and universities receive over \$10 1

2 million in NASA science and engineering grants and contracts; and

3 WHEREAS, NASA operates ambitious education outreach programs across the state through JSC, including NASA Explorer Schools and 4

the Texas Aerospace Scholars Program; and

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WHEREAS, the desire to explore is part of America's character, and history has shown that space exploration benefits all humankind through new technologies for everyday application, jobs across the entire economic enterprise, contributions through new markets and commercial products, education and inspiration, U.S. leadership, increased security, and a legacy for future generations; and

WHEREAS, a Space Exploration Vision has recently been articulated to affirm the United States' commitment to human space exploration and give NASA a new focus and clear objectives, including long-term human and robotic programs to explore the solar system, and a return to the Moon that will ultimately enable future exploration of Mars and other destinations; and

WHEREAS, the Space Exploration Vision begins with NASA returning the Space Shuttle to safe flight, with the chief purpose of completing assembly on the International Space Station, in addition to developing a new Crew Exploration Vehicle to explore beyond earth's orbit to other worlds, all of which are goals uniquely suited for the expertise resident at the NASA Johnson Space Center located in our state; and

WHEREAS, the Space Exploration Vision has the potential to 27 drive innovation, development, and advancement in the aerospace and

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- 1 other high-technology industries across the nation, and in the
- 2 state of Texas; and
- 3 WHEREAS, the proposed budget request for NASA in fiscal year
- 4 2005 fully supports the Space Exploration Vision, aligns NASA
- 5 programs with the Vision goals, affirms the Nation's commitment to
- 6 space exploration, and provides a clear direction for the U.S.
- 7 space program; now, therefore, be it
- 8 RESOLVED by the House of Representatives and Senate of the
- 9 State of Texas, jointly, that the Legislature of the State of Texas
- 10 hereby strongly encourages all members of the United States
- 11 Congress to fully fund NASA in the amount of \$16.2 billion in
- 12 support of the Space Exploration Vision, as submitted to the
- 13 Congress for Fiscal Year 2005, to enable the United States, and the
- 14 state of Texas, to remain a leader in the exploration and
- development of space; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Texas Secretary of State forward official
- 17 copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the
- 18 United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to
- 19 each Senator and Representative from Texas in the Congress of the
- 20 United States, and to the NASA Administrator.