

SR-6

Establishing a Senate Select Committee on Space Debris, to address the ongoing, and growing, problem of space debris.

IN THE SENATE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION

Mr. Wilson of District Of Columbia submitted the following resolution;

RESOLUTION

Establishing a Senate Select Committee on Space Debris, to address the ongoing, and growing, problem of space debris.

SECTION 2.

Whereas much of America's day to day functioning is dependent upon the 6,000 Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites, which are satellites that operate under an altitude of 1,250 miles. These satellites provide weather monitoring, missile detection, and other services;

Whereas these satellites are under constant threat by a field of moving space junk, whose debris vary dramatically in size;

Whereas NASA estimates that there are 500,000 objects in space that are between 1-10 cm long, and more than 100 million objects bigger than one millimeter. There are also thousands of dead satellites and spent rocket stages, collectively;

Whereas space debris objects move at extremely fast speeds. On average, a piece of space debris moves at 16,200 miles per hour;

Whereas currently, there are 9,000 metric tons of debris in space according to NASA, but this number will increase at a higher rate than ever before, as private companies send high volumes of Low Earth Orbit satellites into space;

Whereas this continuing influx of satellites will only worsen the cyclical problem of space debris: More satellites, more collisions; more collisions, more debris; more debris; even more collisions, and so on; and

Whereas if the issue of space debris isn't addressed, future rocket missions will be impossible, because they will not be able to make it through the space debris field. Additionally, parts of our critical infrastructure in space will continue to be at risk of catastrophic damage: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate -

(1) establishes a Senate Select Committee on Space Debris, to solve the ongoing, and growing, issue of space debris; and (2) creates a committee consisting of nine space debris experts, five of whom will be selected by the Senate Majority Leader, and four of whom will be selected by the Senate Minority Leader; and (3) gives the Senate Select Committee on Space Debris until January 1, 2026, to deliver a solution on space debris, along with a plan on how the solution would be funded, and at what cost.