

The NASA Authorization Act of 2026

Securing American Dominance in the New Space Race

The Challenge: America Is in a Space Race with China

The United States is in an intensifying strategic space race with the People's Republic of China, spanning Earth's orbit, the Moon, and the broader expanse of deep space. Beijing is rapidly advancing its lunar ambitions, expanding its on-orbit capabilities, constructing supporting infrastructure beyond Earth, and promoting alternative governance frameworks such as the International Lunar Research Station - all with a clear objective: dominate the Moon, control strategic terrain in space, and write the rules of the 21st century.

Space is not symbolic; it is strategic. Leadership in space underpins national security, economic strength, technological innovation, and global influence. If America hesitates, China will fill the void.

At the same time, NASA faces transition risks in low-Earth orbit (LEO), rising program costs, and supply chain vulnerabilities that could expose sensitive technology to foreign adversaries. Without clear congressional direction, the United States risks losing momentum in lunar exploration, creating a gap in continuous American presence in orbit and weakening oversight of critical national programs.

The Solution: The NASA Authorization Act of 2026

- Directs NASA to establish a permanent Moon Base so we can get there before the Chinese.
- Requires NASA to begin soliciting for two commercial space stations immediately.
- Extends the International Space Station (ISS) to 2032 to avoid a gap in continuous human presence and capabilities in LEO, thus avoiding ceding leadership to China before commercial stations are ready.
- Reasserts American leadership in deep space by advancing the Artemis program as we prepare to return U.S. astronauts to the lunar surface for the first time since Apollo 17, paving the way for the next generation of commercial services beyond Earth's orbit.
- Protects U.S. national security by prohibiting unauthorized cooperation with China, requiring disclosure of foreign financial ties in NASA contracting, and directing comprehensive supply chain risk reviews.
- Strengthens oversight of cost estimates and procurement to protect federal taxpayers.
- Modernizes NASA's workforce and public-private partnerships to ensure America maintains the world's most advanced aerospace industrial base.

Why This Matters

The nation that leads in space will shape the global economy, define international norms, and secure the ultimate strategic high ground. China understands this and is moving rapidly to claim it. The NASA Authorization Act of 2026 ensures that America - not China - leads the next era of exploration. It strengthens the U.S. presence from low-Earth orbit into deep space, protects sensitive technologies from adversaries, restores accountability, and positions the United States to lead from the Moon to Mars.