AMENDMENT NO._______ Calendar No._______

Purpose: To express the sense of Congress on next generation communications technology.


S. 2800

To authorize programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on ________________ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. UDALL)

Viz:

1 At the end of title V, add the following:

2 SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON NEXT GENERATION COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY.

3 It is the sense of Congress that—

4 (1) optical communications technologies—

5 (A) will be critical to the development of next generation space-based communications networks;

6 (B) have the potential to allow NASA to expand the volume of data transmissions in low-

7 Earth orbit and deep space; and
(C) may provide more secure and cost-effective solutions than current radio frequency communications systems;

(2) quantum encryption technology has promising implications for the security of the satellite and terrestrial communications networks of the United States, including optical communications networks, and further research and development by NASA with respect to quantum encryption is essential to maintaining the security of the United States and United States leadership in space; and

(3) in order to provide NASA with more secure and reliable space-based communications, the Space Communications and Navigation program office of NASA should continue—

(A) to support research on and development of optical communications; and

(B) to develop quantum encryption capabilities, especially as those capabilities apply to optical communications networks.