Gardner 6

MCC19C92 S.L.C.

AMENDMENT NO._____ Calendar No._____

Purpose: To require a report on the merits and options for establishing an institute relating to space resources.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—116th Cong., 1st Sess.

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. GARDNER

Viz:

At the end of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 8___. REPORT ON MERITS AND OPTIONS FOR ESTABLISHING AN INSTITUTE RELATING TO SPACE RESOURCES.

(a) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the merits of, and options for, establishing an institute relating to space resources to advance the objectives of NASA in

maintaining United States preeminence in space described in paragraph (3).

(2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include an assessment by the Administrator as to whether—

(A) a virtual or physical institute relating to space resources is most cost effective and appropriate; and

(B) partnering with institutions of higher education and the aerospace industry, and the extractive industry as appropriate, would be effective in increasing information available to such an institute with respect to advancing the objectives described in paragraph (3).

(3) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives described in this paragraph are the following:

(A) Identifying, developing, and distributing space resources, including by encouraging the development of foundational science and technology.

(B) Reducing the technological risks associated with identifying, developing, and distributing space resources.

(C) Developing options for using space resources—

(i) to support current and future space architectures, programs, and missions; and

(ii) to enable architectures, programs, and missions that would not otherwise be possible.

(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(A) EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY.—The term "extractive industry" means a company or individual involved in the process of extracting (including mining, quarrying, drilling, and dredging) space resources.

(B) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term "institution of higher education" has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(C) SPACE RESOURCE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The term "space resource" means an abiotic resource in situ in outer space.

(ii) INCLUSIONS.—The term "space resource" includes a raw material, a natural material, and an energy source.