H. R. ______

To facilitate access to electromagnetic spectrum for commercial space launches and commercial space reentries.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Soto introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on ____________________________

A BILL

To facilitate access to electromagnetic spectrum for commercial space launches and commercial space reentries.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Leveraging American
Understanding of Next-generation Challenges Exploring
Space Act” or the “LAUNCHES Act”.

SEC. 2. ACCESS TO SPECTRUM FOR COMMERCIAL SPACE
LAUNCHES AND REENTRIES.

(a) Service Rules; Allocation.—
(1) In general.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall—

(A) adopt service rules for access to the frequencies described in subsection (c) for commercial space launches and commercial space reentries, including technical specifications, eligibility requirements, and coordination procedures to preserve the Nation’s defense capabilities; and

(B) allocate on a co-primary basis the frequencies described in subsection (c) for commercial space launches and commercial space reentries.

(2) Coordination with Secretary of Defense.—The coordination procedures adopted under paragraph (1)(A) shall include requirements for persons conducting commercial space launches and commercial space reentries to coordinate with the Secretary of Defense regarding access to the frequencies described in subsection (c) for commercial space launches and commercial space reentries.

(b) Streamlining of process for granting authorizations.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall stream-
line the process for granting authorizations for access to
the frequencies described in subsection (e) for commercial
space launches and commercial space reentries to provide
for—

(1) authorizations that include access to such
frequencies for multiple commercial space launches
from one or more space launch sites and multiple
commercial space reentries to one or more reentry
sites;

(2) authorizations that include access to mul-
tiple uses of such frequencies for a commercial space
launch or commercial space reentry;

(3) automation of the processes of the Commis-
sion to review applications for authorizations for ac-
cess to such frequencies for commercial space
launches and commercial space reentries; and

(4) improved coordination by the Commission
with the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Com-
munications and Information (who shall coordinate
with the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of
the National Aeronautics and Space Administration,
and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration) to increase the speed
of review of applications for authorizations for ac-
cess to such frequencies for commercial space 
launches and commercial space reentries.

(c) FREQUENCIES DESCRIBED.—The frequencies de-
scribed in this subsection are the following:

(1) The frequencies between 2025 megahertz 
and 2110 megahertz.

(2) The frequencies between 2200 megahertz 
and 2290 megahertz.

(3) The frequencies between 2360 megahertz 
and 2395 megahertz.

(4) The frequencies between 5650 megahertz 
and 5925 megahertz.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Each range of fre-
quencies described in this section shall be construed to be 
inclusive of the upper and lower frequencies in the range.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMERCIAL SPACE LAUNCH.—The term 
“commercial space launch” means a launch licensed 
under chapter 509 of title 51, United States Code.

(2) COMMERCIAL SPACE REENTRY.—The term 
“commercial space reentry” means a reentry li-
censed under chapter 509 of title 51, United States 
Code.

(3) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” 
means the Federal Communications Commission.