

HOUSE PASSES CONFERENCE REPORT REAUTHORIZING NASALarson Had Role in Safeguarding Spending for First

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HOUSE PASSES CONFERENCE REPORT REAUTHORIZING NASA

Larson Had Role in Safeguarding Spending for First DistrictWASHINGTON - The House of Representatives passed the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization conference report for fiscal year 2001 today, authorizing a total of \$42.4 billion over a three year period or \$14.1 billion for 2001, which is \$149 million more than President Clinton had requested. Included in the bill is a \$50 million dollar authorization for further development of Ultra Efficient Engine Technology.

The purpose of the UEET is to produce "cleaner" engines with fewer emissions and far less noise, both of which are issues that interfere with advanced engine production.

A portion of the work involving Ultra Efficient Engine Technology is done by Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford, and spending on the project totals roughly five million dollars for fiscal year 2001 and an additional five million for fiscal year 2002. The UEET program is two years old, having been originally funded in the 2000 budget.

"This program is focused to develop the next-generation of aerospace propulsion," said Larson in May of 1999. "The UEET effort involved bold, revolutionary technologies that must be integrated into a demonstration model engine over the next 5 years in order to validate this technology."

Last year, the original language of the bill stated that funding for the UEET program was prohibited, however, Larson asked the Space and Aeronautics Sub Committee chairman, Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) and other members to clarify the issue. Through a personal effort in dealing with the committee, Larson and several colleagues were able to change the language of the legislation to include spending on the program.

In comments on the floor at the time, Rep. Rohrabacher said, "...I would like to thank the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. Larson] because had he not put so much time and energy in, we would not be just making sure that we have clarified this position, and it would not be as good as it is today."*

In a speech on the House floor today before its passage, Larson thanked Rohrabacher and the members of the committee: "Their willingness to listen and work on addressing some of the concerns I have expressed, beginning at the Committee level all through the House-Senate Conference should not go unacknowledged," said Larson, who later added, "[Ultra Efficient Engine Technology] is focused on developing the next-generation of aerospace propulsion and this funding authorization will have a positive impact on not only the future competition of the United States' commercial air fleet, but specifically on the development of our next generation [of] tactical military aircraft."

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Congressman Larson is a member of the House Science Committee and on the Sub Committee on Space and Aeronautics.

*[Congressional Record, Page H3318 - 5/19/99]