Appropriates $7,742,550,000 for science, aeronautics and exploration, instead of $7,621,169,000 as proposed by the House and $7,936,500,000 as proposed by the Senate. The Senate proposal included $200,000,000 in ~~contingent~~ emergency funding.

The Federal investments in aeronautics research and development have delivered countless economic and societal benefits to the nation over the years. Challenges in dealing with the projected growth in air traffic as well as the need to reduce significantly the adverse environmental impacts of future aircraft will require that NASA remain deeply engaged in aeronautics research and development. The conferees direct NASA to develop a prioritized set of aeronautics goals through 2020, along with the annual funding requirements associated with achieving each goal. The plan should be provided to the Committee within 120 days. As part of NASA's investments in this area, the conferees direct NASA to provide $25,000,000 for Intelligent Propulsion System Foundation Technologies (Propulsion 21) to continue research by the existing coalition of NASA, state government, industry, and academia.

The conferees have included $28,200,000 for the National Space Grant College and Fellowship program. This amount is an increase of $9,100,000 to the fiscal year 2005 budget request. The amount provided will fund 40 states at $575,000 each and 12 states at $350,000 each as well as $1,000,000 for administrative expenses.

The conferees have included $12,000,000 for the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). The amount provided is $7,400,000 above the budget request of $4,600,000 and will fund the fourth year of current five-year research grants.