

CONGRESS SPEECH

Ferdinand Magellan, the explorer famous for circumventing the globe, once said, “The sea is dangerous and its storms terrible, but these obstacles have never been sufficient reason to remain ashore.” When it comes to space exploration the obstacles have been funding and sheer will to do it. But as the US proved it had both of these things when it put a man on the moon. Now, outer space beckons as I stand in affirmation of Item 1, A Resolution to promote the development and exploration of outer space. I have two contentions. 1. Space exploration can lead to scientific discoveries and 2. Exploring space helps US hegemony.

1. Space exploration can lead to scientific discoveries

While NASA didn’t invent Magnetic Resonance Imaging, or the MRI, their technology contributed to the development of the imaging, according to NASA.gov. Additionally, the Left Ventricle Assist Device, or LVAD, was based off the NASA fuel pumps. So without space exploration, these and many other technologies would never have been hastened and lives could’ve conceivably been lost.

2. Exploring space helps US hegemony

Several countries have landed probes on the moon’s surface. While the US was the first, that accomplishment is slowly being overshadowed by other countries and their own space race. Just as the western frontier of the United States was settled and Alaska was annexed to combat the Soviets, space offers an opportunity for countries to flex their muscles and claim territory. Professor Charles Elliston of Duke University states in National Geographic, 2020, that “The US risks not just falling behind in space exploration, but in it’s status as a superpower if it allows other countries to be the first to put a man on Mars.” The US must fund space exploration to stay ahead of other countries’ space programs.

The rest of the Magellan quote goes, “It is with an iron will that they embark on the most daring of all endeavors... to meet the shadowy future without fear and conquer the unknown.” There is no doubt that space exploration is costly, but the benefits of scientific discoveries and improving our hegemony are purely astronomical.