



S.J.RES. 35 – TO AMEND PUBLIC LAW 108-331 TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE VERY ENERGETIC RADIATION IMAGING TELESCOPE ARRAY SYSTEM (VERITAS) PROJECT IN ARIZONA

FLOOR SITUATION

S.J.Res. 35 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) on May 22, 2008. The resolution passed the Senate on July 17, 2008 by unanimous consent. The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure agreed to the resolution by voice vote on July 31, 2008.

S.J.Res. 35 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 16, 2008.

SUMMARY

S.J.Res. 35 authorizes Smithsonian board of regents to locate the Very Energetic Radiation Imaging Telescope Array System (VERITAS) at the Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory Base Camp at Mount Hopkins, Arizona.

BACKGROUND

Previously, H.R. 5105 (P.L. 108-331) authorized the construction of the VERITAS at Kitt Peak, Arizona. The bill authorized \$1 million in appropriations for fiscal year 2005.

Original plans for the VERITAS had the telescope permanently located in Horseshoe Canyon, at Kitt Peak, Arizona. Unresolved legal claims against the placement of the VERITAS at Kitt Peak resulted in the telescope being permanently placed at the Whipple Observatory.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that “enacting S.J. Res. 35 would not affect the federal budget.” [CBO cost estimate for S.J. Res 35](#)

STAFF CONTACT

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