

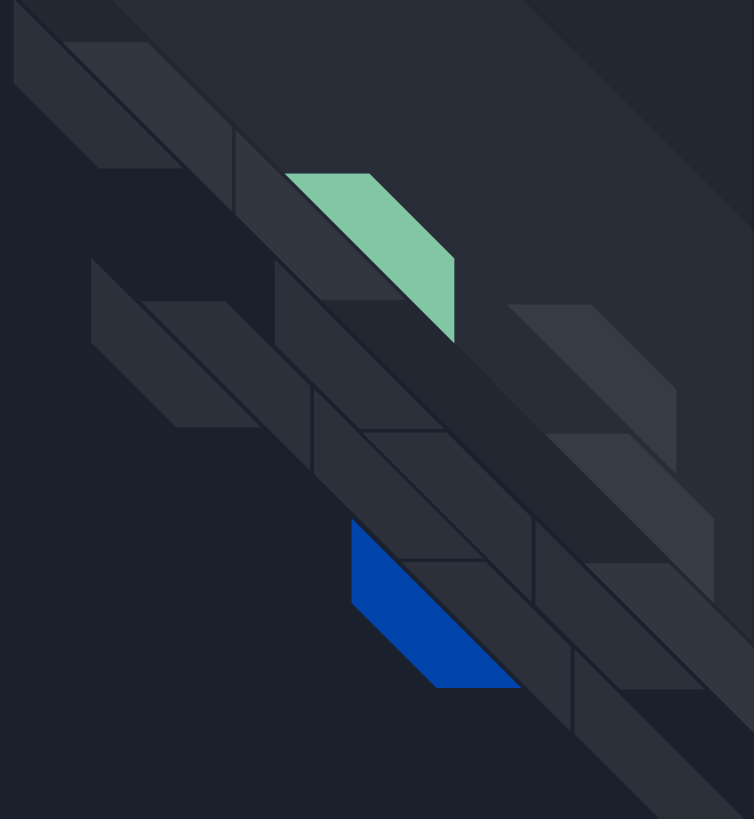


NASA-CNSA Collaboration

Ellyn Hu, Ming Huang, Nathan Tamez

Problem Definition

The US has repeatedly **banned Chinese scientists** from attending NASA conferences, resulting in the **loss of mutual beneficial gain** through the exchange of information





Public Law 112-55, SEC. 539

- a. **No funds may be used** for a bilateral policy in any way with China or any Chinese-owned company
- b. Applicability - **the limitation applies to hosting official Chinese visitors at NASA facilities**
- c. Certification - **doesn't apply to activities certified by NASA/OSTP to pose no risk** in the transfer of technology, data, or other information
- d. Deadline - **any certification must be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate** 2 weeks prior and must include a description of the purpose, its major participants, and its location/timing

Government Statements & Legislation

1998

Congressional commission led by Christopher Cox found that **China used technical info from US** meant for commercial satellites **to improve ICBMs**

1999

Close Sino-US **partnership rejected by several American politicians**

Rep. Frank Wolf:
“They [China] are the evil empire”

2010

Rep. John Culberson urged Obama **not to allow contact** between NASA & CNSA **without Congressional authorization**

2011

112th US Congress officially banned NASA from bilateral collaboration with China through **Public Law 112-55, SEC. 539**



Agenda Setting - Government Opinions

- ▷ Chinese space program has a “**very heavy military component**” - Dean Cheng, a policy analyst for the Heritage Foundation
- ▷ **Worried about security of research centers** that house US high-tech secrets
- ▷ Chinese scientist & NASA contractor **Bo Jiang caught** on way out of US in March 2012 **with unauthorized information on a NASA-issued laptop**

*“Historically, working with Russia has benefited the American space program. Rep. Culberson does not see a benefit for NASA to work with China in the current climate because **they’ve proven to be aggressive in stealing American information.**”*

- Culberson’s spokesperson



Agenda Setting - NASA Scientists

- ▷ NASA & CNSA administrators both express interest in working together despite US law constraining bilateral cooperation
- ▷ Scientists willing to exchange scientific data and space situational awareness & space traffic management information

“CNSA is willing to join our hands with other international partners for the benefit of human civilization and progress of human society.”

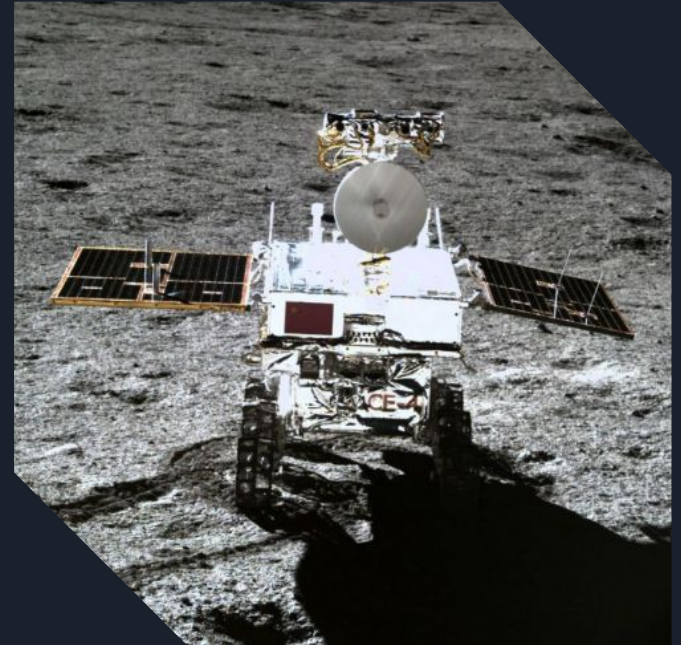
- Zhang Kejian, CNSA administrator, during a panel at the 69th International Astronautical Conference Oct 1, 2018

Criticism of Chinese Exclusion Policy

- ▷ 2013 - **American scientists boycotted NASA meeting** to protest NASA Ames officials prohibiting Chinese nationals from attending conference
- ▷ “completely **shameful and unethical**” - Geoffrey Marcy, astronomy professor
- ▷ “**Deplorable ‘own goal’ by the US**” - Sir Martin Rees, Astronomer Royal of GB

Recent Developments

- ▷ 2003 - China = 3rd nation to launch astronauts into orbit
- ▷ Russia and China are the only 2 countries capable of sending astronauts into space
- ▷ Jan. 2019 - NASA & China collaborated on observing the landing of Chang'e 4 using NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO)





Main Policy Proposal

Modify Public Law 112-55, Sec. 539 so that official Chinese visitors will be explicitly allowed to attend conferences/conventions in the US without the need for certification

- ▷ Conferences pose no/low-risk → all public information → nothing to lose
 - Unpublished research data still secure
- ▷ No delay in issuing visas for visitors
- ▷ Open exchange/discussion of ideas to gain knowledge from each other
 - Get-to-know recent Chinese developments

Policy Alternate 1

Only issue visas to Chinese scientists who have submitted presentations for conferences/conventions

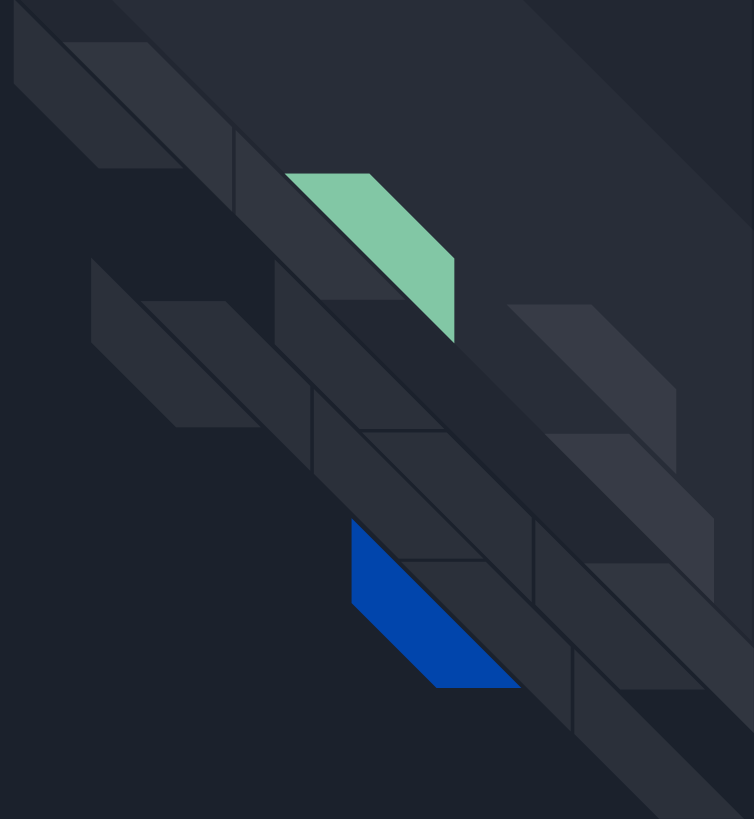
- ▷ China must agree to mutual exchange of information



Policy Alternate 2

Allow a NASA spokesperson to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives during times of certification

- ▷ NASA insight on bilateral collaboration activity
- ▷ Clarifications → quicker enactment of legislation



Implementation

- ▷ **Propose a new bill** to modify the Public Law 112-55, Sec. 539
- ▷ **The host of the conference/convention** (i.e. a university, research institution) **sends a list of all the Chinese scientists who have submitted presentations** to the Cmte. on Approp. of the House of Rep. & the Senate
- ▷ Started **online petition on change.org** to raise awareness of issue



Evaluative Criterion

- ▷ US scientists **create summary of information presented** by Chinese representatives to track the amount and topics of the presentations
 - Evaluates benefit of knowledge gained
- ▷ **Economy - not impacted**, Chinese reps pay for visa application, lodging, transportation, and conference application
- ▷ **Public opinion shifts from distrust to the willingness to exchange knowledge** (with caution)
- ▷ **National security still protected**, as we are not giving China access to our raw data or our research facilities



Next Steps

- ▷ Use the evaluative criterion to decide whether to further loosen or tighten regulations regarding bilateral collaboration between NASA and China
- ▷ Educate the public about this topic through social media forums
- ▷ Survey the general public about their opinions regarding this issue to gain greater insight about how the mass feels



Thank you for listening