T Cards

**We meet - Moon treaty is the MOST comprehensive framework for space resource development.**

**Filiato, 86**

[Anthony R., The Commercial Space Launch Act: America’s Response to the Moon Treaty? Fordham International Law Journal, 10:4, http://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1162&context=ilj&sei-redir=1#search=%22moon%20treaty%20development%20space%20resources%20section%2018%22]

Under United Nations sponsorship in 1984, the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (Moon Treaty) entered into force.1 This treaty provides the most comprehensive framework ever designed for the development of space resources. The accessibility of the moon, coupled with current technology, present the moon's natural resources as the first logical target of devel- 2 opment. One major obstacle preventing realization of the Treaty's purpose is that the United States, the major actor in space activities, has refused to sign the Treaty. Detractors of the Moon Treaty within the United States argue that the Treaty would bar the private sector from operating profit-oriented enterprises in outer space. 4 Moreover, the detractors note that in the United States, the private sector already enjoys the right to launch and operate space vehicles under the Commercial Space Launch Act of 1984 (Launch Act). 5 Thus, there is an argument that current United States policy, as embodied in the Launch Act, precludes the United States from signing the Moon Treaty.

Accession to moon treaty is space development.

**Filiato, 86**

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By signing the Moon Treaty and helping to create an international regime to oversee space development, the United States would maintain its leadership position in space development and at the same time protect United States space operations, both public and private. Only a minimum investment of one year is required if the United States signs the Moon Treaty. If at some later date the agreement in fact proves to be adverse to United States interests, then the United States can simply withdraw from the agreement.

More evidence.

**Filiato, 86**

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This Note argues that the United States policy, as exhibited by the Launch Act, and the intent of the Moon Treaty are not mutually exclusive. Part I of this Note examines the history of the Moon Treaty, particularly the controversy surrounding the use of the "common heritage of mankind" provision and the plan for an international regime to regulate space resources. Part II examines the current United States policy regarding private enterprise in outer space in light of the passage of the Launch Act. Part III then argues that private enterprise may legally operate in space under the Moon Treaty and the United States policy of encouraging private space development would not be adversely affected if the United States signs the Moon Treaty. This Note concludes that the intent of the Launch Act and the intent of the Moon Treaty are far from being contradictory, both promote the development of space resources and provide a stable, orderly framework to accomplish that goal.