

# Our Violation of the Preservation of Space, and How to Save It While We Still Can

Humankind does not have a track record of preserving the natural environment. We consistently destroy everything in our path to achieve our goals. Our planet is small and space is endless, so it's easy to assume that we can do whatever we want in that endlessness with no limits and no consequences. However, no matter how vast, space is still a precious natural environment. We must restrain ourselves with federal legislation so that we can maintain the current state of our corner of the universe because we are already corrupting space for each other.

We are currently negatively affecting our access to space. Private corporations, such as Space X, are flooding the outer atmosphere with satellites. According to the Centre for International Governance Innovation: "LEO satellites can improve communications and internet access, especially in remote areas, and enhance weather- and climate-tracking capabilities. At the same time, LEO satellites are rapidly cluttering the skies, making professional and amateur stargazing more challenging. . ." (Munro) We are deploying so many objects into space that they interfere with our own practice of astronomy. These satellites do not benefit the scientific community or the greater good of man, and instead, only provide a service to those willing to pay for it. On our own planet, capitalism has ravaged our climate and caused the extinction of countless species. Although existing space-faring technology is too rudimentary to consume as

quickly as our machines on Earth can, we are already seeing the beginning of the privatization of an entity that was supposed to belong to no one.

The main countries currently capable of major space missions are the USA, China, and Russia. These countries have virtually all the power in deciding if and how to protect space from humanity. However, agreements between these nations have proven to be ineffective. In the article *If Humanity Is to Succeed in Space, Our Ethics Must Evolve* the author states: “Yet, like all multilateral institutions, while UNOOSA has been able to articulate and facilitate international agreement on noteworthy ethical principles, its enforcement capacity is limited. That some countries continue to use space for military purposes reveals the challenge.” (Munro) UNOOSA just doesn’t hold enough power over foreign bodies to dictate what they do with their access to space. In order to achieve real change in ethical policy, we need firm laws passed by our very own congress. Although the US is only one of many superpowers capable of space travel, it is also the country that is currently dumping a considerable quantity of satellites into low-earth orbit. A law banning this type of widespread space pollution would be incredibly effective as a first step. It would also put pressure on allies of the US to follow suit.

If we pass bills that promote ethical practices in space, we will be proactively protecting the interstellar environment that we have already begun to taint. Our desire for the exploration of the final frontier should supersede our tendency toward mass consumption and resource-motivated conflict. We should learn from what we have done to Earth over the past two centuries and proceed with increased caution as we continue to develop aeronautical

technologies. As a species, we are only a blip in all of existence and have no business interfering with the beautiful, celestial expanse that surrounds us.

## Works Cited

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