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June 7, 2017

Committee on Space, Science and Technology  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith,

Thank you for your efforts on the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act of 2017 in the Committee on Science, Space and Technology. AER is a member of the American Commercial Space Weather Association (ACSWA) and supports the bi-partisan efforts developing this bill. We support efforts to bring it before the House of Representatives as soon as possible.

The Act has a number of important provisions, including simplifying and strengthening the outdated space-based remote sensing regulatory system. The Act will also enhance U.S. compliance with international obligations, improve national security, and eliminate cumbersome regulatory barriers facing new and innovative space technology companies.

We support the creation of a single authority for registration of nongovernmental space activities located at the Department of Commerce Office of Space Commerce. We also support maintaining our international obligations to the Outer Space Treaty and recognizing any safety risks posed to our existing federal space systems.

Atmospheric and Environmental Research (AER) provides science-based solutions to global environmental challenges. AER's internationally renowned scientists and software engineers collaborate to transform state-of-the-art predictive science and analytical tools into practical systems that address both civilian government and defense needs for geophysical understanding, computer simulation, and forecasting. Areas of expertise comprise atmospheric and environmental science, satellite remote sensing, oceanography, meteorology, space science, climate change, and software engineering. A unit of the Verisk Climate division at Verisk Analytics (Nasdaq:VRSK), AER was established in 1977 and is headquartered in Lexington, Mass.

I thank you and the co-sponsors for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Guy P. Seeley, Ph.D.  
President

CC: US Rep. Brian Babin and US Rep. Jim Bridenstine