

April 25, 2025

Hon. Brian Babin
Chairman
House Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Zoe Lofgren
Ranking Member
House Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Babin and Ranking Member Lofgren:

As the CEO of Maxar, a world-leader in geospatial insights, I am writing to convey Maxar's strong support for the ASCEND Act. We greatly appreciate the work the Committee has done to support the commercial remote sensing industry and codifying NASA's Commercial Satellite Data Acquisition (CSDA) program is an important step in providing the government access to the innovation and technology advancements that are the lifeblood of our industry.

As a longstanding partner of the United States government, Maxar has seen how commercial data providers can develop from a capability augmentation to a critical mission component. NASA started CSDA as a pilot, but the program has already proven vital by leveraging remote sensing data for wildfire recovery, tracking deforestation and reforestation, helping better comprehend soil erosion for agriculture producers in the US, and mapping flash flood hazards. Sustaining these efforts and continuing to build upon the CSDA program's success require the program be codified in law.

As the commercial remote sensing industry expands capacity and capabilities through private investments and technology advancements, CSDA is poised to further critical research impacting everyday life. CSDA's growth in recent years has allowed the program to include a broader array of companies and capabilities, thanks in large part to increased funding and support from Congress. CSDA continues to evaluate new and emerging capabilities like Maxar's 3D imaging of Earth as well as our world-leading 30cm capacity which increases accuracy, timeliness, and coverage for uses in flood mapping, landslide risk assessments, infrastructure design, and emergency planning.

CSDA is a cost-effective, efficient way to expand the government's use of commercial capabilities, leveraging private sector investments, and improving our ability to combat the most pressing challenges we face. I applaud the bipartisan effort to pass the ASCEND Act and thank the Committee for its steadfast support of NASA and the United States' commercial space industry.

Sincerely,



Dan Smoot
CEO, Maxar