



November 28, 2023

The Honorable Frank Lucas  
Chair, House Committee on  
Science, Space, and Technology

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren  
Ranking Member, House Committee on  
Science, Space, and Technology

The Honorable Brian Babin  
Chair, Subcommittee on  
Space and Aeronautics

The Honorable Eric Sorensen  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on  
Space and Aeronautics

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members,

As the world's leading space transportation and services provider, SpaceX writes in support of H.R. 6131, the Commercial Space Act of 2023. This timely legislation would put into action important policy updates and regulatory modernization that is essential to maintaining the competitiveness of the U.S. commercial space industry, while protecting public safety. The policy updates in H.R. 6131 are critical measures to ensure that key national policy objectives like NASA's Artemis Program and national security space initiatives can be timely executed.

As you know, the United States derives much of its space capability from commercial providers, an approach that is wholly distinct from the rest of the world which relies on state-owned or state-sponsored entities. Our national entrepreneurial framework enables and encourages rapid, continuous private sector innovation that delivers capabilities unique to the United States and is one of our Nation's greatest strengths. The present regulatory framework is struggling to keep up with the pace of American innovation happening today, creating untenable delays and hindering development. The Commercial Space Act of 2023 takes important and necessary steps to ensure our national policy framework best positions U.S. industry to compete moving forward.

Most critically, H.R. 6131 provides significant improvements to the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) licensing process. Without these changes, China is well positioned to outcompete the United States in space and could beat NASA back to the Moon. The bill provides reasonable pathways for more streamlined, sensible, efficient, and flexible regulatory review without compromising public safety.

H.R. 6131 also extends the human spaceflight learning period. The current learning period expiration date of January 1, 2024 is premature by many years, and the same factors that led Congress to previously extend the learning period remain true today. A learning period extension provides the necessary additional time to support development and ultimately produce safer systems, and ensures that vital FAA resources are not diverted away from its core responsibility of timely licensing of launches and reentries today in furtherance of public safety.

Finally, the bill establishes a streamlined mission authorization process managed by the Department of Commerce. This clear, light-touch regime would ensure compliance with Article

VI of the Outer Space Treaty while preventing confusion and undue regulatory burden on U.S. commercial space operators.

Thank you for your leadership on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mat Dunn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mat Dunn  
Senior Director, Global Business & Government Affairs