



# ATMOSPHERIC & SPACE TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH ASSOCIATES, LLC

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Date: June 7, 2017

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

Dear Chairman Smith,

Thank you for marking up the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act of 2017 in the Committee on Science, Space and Technology. Atmospheric & Space Technology Research Associates (ASTRA) LLC is in strong support of the bi-partisan efforts in the development of this bill and we support efforts to bring it before the House of Representatives as soon as possible.

The Act has a number of important provisions, most important is that the proposed legislation will simplify and strengthen the outdated space-based remote sensing regulatory system. Equally important is that the Act will enhance U.S. compliance with international obligations, will serve to improve national security and eliminates 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; as well as, maintaining our international obligations to the Outer Space Treaty and recognizing any safety risks posed to our existing federal space systems.

ASTRA is one of the leading U.S. commercial organizations providing space weather services and products. We have developed a new model of the upper atmosphere that is being transitioned to the USAF Joint Space Operations Center (JSpOC) at Vandenberg AFB. We have developed and flown a number of Cubesats, with several others currently under construction for NASA, NSF and the DoD. We have also developed and deployed an instrument for monitoring conditions in the ionosphere that can degrade and disrupt GPS signals and UHF satellite communications for both the DoD and commercial providers. Two of these systems are about to be deployed on NOAA buoys in the Pacific, and we have an array of systems distributed across Alaska.

ASTRA is a Small Business, and also a proud member of the American Commercial Space Weather Association (ACSWA), an association dedicated to improving America's competitive edge in space. I thank you and the co-sponsors for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Dr. Geoff Crowley, Ph.D.  
President & Chief Scientist

CC: U.S. Rep. Brian Babin and U.S. Rep. Jim Bridenstine