



April 28, 2025

The Honorable Brian Babin
Chairman
Committee on Science, Space,
and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space,
and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Babin and Ranking Member Lofgren:

I write to express Planet's strong support for H.R. 2600, the Accessing Satellite Capabilities to Enable New Discoveries (ASCEND) Act, which will enable NASA to continue providing access to innovative U.S. commercial remote sensing data sets supporting Earth science and improving the utility of space-based data across the country.

Planet has participated in the Commercial Satellite Data Acquisition (CSDA) program since its inception as a pilot program in 2017. At that time, there was a realization of the gap that existed for the research community to gain access to commercial data sets in order to augment and complement the data provided by NASA, other federal agencies, or international systems. Commercial data has proven useful in providing additional temporal, spatial, or spectral resolution which can support wide ranging Earth science and applications research into key issues facing our communities across the country. This includes research supporting agriculture, assessing or preparing for natural disasters, addressing wildfire risk or recovery, and many other important problems of our time. Put simply, the CSDA program affords researchers a means of acquiring access to satellite data that was previously unavailable to them, and allows researchers to benefit from the ongoing innovation from commercial providers every year. This has contributed to the more than 4,000 scientific publications published using Planet data by researchers around the globe, which is advancing U.S. scientific leadership and bolstering the U.S. commercial space industry.

The ASCEND Act is an important step from Congress to demonstrate its continued support for the program as CSDA begins its next chapter. Over the past two years, the CSDA program has nearly doubled the number of commercial vendors in the program onboarding diverse new remote sensing data sets for the research community. Codifying this program will cement the strong partnership between NASA and commercial vendors, and enable CSDA to continue expanding the accessibility and utility of Earth observation data. CSDA is fostering innovation through partnerships with commercial companies, and this collaboration is driving technological advancements and strengthening our national security by leveraging our domestic commercial remote sensing industry. Importantly, end



user license agreements in the program allow use of data beyond just NASA, enabling other federal agencies to leverage the data access provided in the program. This underscores the vital role NASA Earth Science serves supporting federal agencies as they carry out their missions, and represents an efficient use of funding to enable broad accessibility and usage of commercial data sets for a variety of applications across the federal government.

I want to thank the Committee for advancing this important bill, as well as thank the sponsors, Representative Hurd and Representative Bonamici, for their commitment to advancing NASA's Earth science capabilities with the ASCEND Act. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Marshall", located below the "Sincerely," text.

Will Marshall
Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Planet Labs PBC