



December 5, 2023

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

2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brian Babin
Chairman
House Committee on Science,
Space, and Technology
Subcommittee on Space & Aeronautics
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Lucas and Chairman Babin,

Thank you for your leadership on policies addressing the commercial space sector. Virgin Galactic is the world's first commercial spaceline, pioneering human spaceflight for private individuals and researchers with its advanced air and space vehicles. Our company's mission is to democratize access to space by providing frequent private astronaut journeys, microgravity research, and spaceflight training opportunities.

Virgin Galactic applauds the members and staff of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology for introducing the Commercial Space Act of 2023. This legislation comes at a critical juncture for the U.S. commercial human spaceflight. As the number of flights with spaceflight participants begins to grow, this legislation would help protect that growth by extending the FAA regulatory learning period and risk-sharing provisions of the Commercial Space Launch Act (CSLA).

As industry works to develop consensus standards on safety and build a flight record, extending the learning period through the Commercial Space Act of 2023 will provide valuable regulatory certainty for operators and spaceflight participants. Providing this certainty now will allow for continued discussions of what a transition to a future regulatory framework might include and prevent hasty or premature regulations that could harm industry growth. Additionally, the CSLA risk-sharing framework for launch and reentry remains critical to the continued success of the U.S. commercial space sector by leveling the playing field against foreign state-backed competitors.

As the Committee advances the Commercial Space Act of 2023, we offer our strong support for these provisions and commend this effort to ensure continued U.S. leadership in space.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sirisha Bandla".

Sirisha Bandla
VP of Government Affairs & Research Operations
Virgin Galactic