



January 16, 2024

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Chairman, House Committee on Science, Space,
and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
2405 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Ranking Member, House Committee on
Science, Space, and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brian Babin
Chairman, Space and Aeronautics
House Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
2236 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eric Sorensen
Ranking Member, Space and Aeronautics
House Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
1205 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen, Lucas and Babin, and Ranking Members, Lofgren and Sorensen,


I am writing to you on behalf of Ad Astra Rocket Company, developers of the Variable Specific Impulse Magnetoplasma Rocket (VASIMR®), a high-power electric propulsion technology, poised to change the paradigm of commercial in-space transportation, and help advance America's leadership in space.

We are grateful to the Committee for its work, side-by-side with industry, to craft the Commercial Space Act of 2023, which diligently notes the tremendous growth of the commercial space sector since the previous such legislation in 2015. We support this clear and concise legislation. Consistent government support sends a strong message to the private markets that stimulate competition, innovation, and investment. All of which are necessary for the further development of our systems.

I was especially pleased by the committee's proposal for needed clarification on the use of space nuclear power and propulsion. These systems will become increasingly important in cislunar space and crucial to enabling our astronauts to travel safely far and fast in deep space. They will also ensure the United States remains as the clear leader in a growing family of space-faring nations. With our VASIMR® technology and safe and reliable nuclear electric power, Ad Astra will be honored to help support those goals.

We at Ad Astra applaud the Committee for its vision on the Commercial Space Act of 2023 and appreciate the assistance this legislation provides to those of us in the private sector. Please do not hesitate to call on us for any help we could provide in support of this legislative process.

Sincerely,



Franklin Chang Diaz
Chairman and CEO