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July 21, 2023

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Lucas and Ranking Member Lofgren:

On behalf of GeoOptics, I am writing in support of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Reauthorization Act of 2023.

The Weather Act Reauthorization strengthens and advances the legislative goals of the 2017 Act. One of those 2017 provisions (Sec. 302) enabled the procurement of quality commercial weather data from a range of commercial opportunities, including public-private partnerships, for obtaining surface-based, aviation-based, and space-based weather observations. This legislation paved the way for the creation of the NOAA Commercial Weather Data Pilot Program when the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) conducted evaluation trials for radio occultation data (GPS-RO) and subsequently, this created the Commercial Purchase Program at NOAA Office of Space Commerce for commercial space data.

GeoOptics provides the highest quality radio occultation data (GNSS-RO) through its satellite observing system known as CICERO. GeoOptics was founded by working scientists, engineers, and data users in response to the increasingly urgent need for actionable information about the state of our planet and the impacts of human activity on quality of life and on Earth's future. The company has won satellite data contracts from NASA, NOAA, and the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP).

The commercial Earth observation sector continues to expand technologies and services that are critical to daily life on our planet. GeoOptics and its partners provide solutions that have improved the frequency and resolution of data, resulting in increasing accuracy in predicting, monitoring, and mitigating threats to our nation's infrastructure and the environment.

I applaud your leadership in pursuing this legislation and stand ready to provide any information you might need to help strengthen our Weather Enterprise.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Saltman".

Alex Saltman,
CEO