



8 June 2017

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
United States House of Representatives
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
United States House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Johnson:

Space Florida supports the Committee on Science, Space and Technology's markup of H.R. 2809, the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act (ASCFEA), introduced by Chairman Smith, Chairman Babin, and Representative Bridenstine.

The State of Florida is home to the world's busiest spaceport. This year, more than 30 launches are manifested, and the Cape Canaveral Spaceport is actively preparing for a significantly increased launch cadence in the coming years. In addition, a number of emerging space actors have set up shop in the Sunshine State, with exciting plans to pursue space commerce activities aimed at exploring, developing, and utilizing space resources. This bill creates a transparent and predictable approval process for existing and emerging in-space activities, which will provide space actors the certainty needed to attract capital, obtain licenses, and ultimately, launch to and operate in space.

Space Florida is very encouraged by the bill's "light touch" approach, and by the explicit limitations on U.S. Government actions that would delay or inhibit U.S. companies from pursuing space commerce activities. We believe this initiative will help ensure that the United States has the most competitive and proactive approach to opening the space frontier for economic benefit.

The designation of the Secretary of Commerce and an Assistant Secretary-level Office of Space Commerce is a reasonable and effective solution to addressing the administrative requirements for international treaty compliance. We believe the proposed approach will promote U.S. private sector activities in space without compromising treaty commitments intended to protect the outer space environment and celestial bodies.

While we commend the Committee for its timely approach regarding commercial on-orbit operations, Space Florida strongly supports a parallel elevation of an Assistant Secretary within the Department of Transportation to promote and, as necessary, regulate, commercial space transportation. This would elevate and highlight the USDOT role and responsibility in promoting and enabling the U.S. space transportation infrastructure and the commercial space transportation industry as an integral element of the nation's transportation system, recognizing its growing importance to the nation's economic and



security interests on a par with other modes of transportation such as aviation, highways, and maritime transportation.

We are eager to work in the future with the Committee on the development of those policies which will be administered by both Transportation and Commerce, but we remain encouraged that the proposed legislation under review at present provides an effective format for execution.

Space Florida commends the Committee's leadership and support for the sustained growth of the commercial space industry and greatly appreciates the opportunity to discuss and provide feedback on this impactful piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James M. Kuzma". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

James Kuzma
Chief Officer Officer
Space Florida

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