



201 N. Orange Grove Blvd., Suite 503  
Pasadena, CA 91103

June 7, 2017

House Committee on Science, Space and Technology  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith,

Thank you for marking up the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act of 2017 in the Committee on Science, Space and Technology. GeoOptics strongly supports the bipartisan efforts to develop this bill as well as efforts to mark it up in the House Science Committee and bring it before the House of Representatives.

The Act has a number of important provisions, including the establishment of a single authority for registration of nongovernmental space activities located at the Department of Commerce Office of Space Commerce; as well as, maintaining our international obligations to the Outer Space Treaty and recognizing any safety risks posed to our existing federal space systems. We strongly support this effort to streamline regulatory burdens and promote the commercial use of space.

Under the proposed legislation, the space-based remote sensing regulatory system would undergo regularization and simplification, which is of particular importance to companies like ours that plan to develop new commercial remote sensing capabilities and seek a predictable regulatory regime for such activities. The Act would also ensure U.S. compliance with international obligations, promote evidence-based regulation, improve national security and eliminate cumbersome regulatory barriers facing new and innovative space technology companies.

GeoOptics will soon launch the first of its constellation of small satellites that will provide advanced, affordable and reliable weather and environmental data to the Federal government and other customers. This data will help private and public decision-makers make well-informed decisions about natural resources around the world.

I thank you and the co-sponsors of this legislation, Space Subcommittee Chairman Brian Babin and Rep. Jim Bridenstine for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.  
VADM USN (ret.) and CEO, GeoOptics

CC: Rep. Brian Babin, Rep. Jim Bridenstine