



SPACE ENVIRONMENT TECHNOLOGIES

Space Research

Space Operations

Space Standards

June 7, 2017

Committee on Space, Science and Technology
US House of Representatives
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. Space Environment Technologies (SET) is in strong support of the bi-partisan efforts in the development of this bill and we support efforts to bring it before the House of Representatives as soon as possible.

The Act has a number of important provisions, most important is that the proposed legislation will simplify and strengthen the outdated space-based remote sensing regulatory system. Equally important is that the Act will enhance U.S. compliance with international obligations, will serve to improve national security and eliminates cumbersome regulatory barriers facing new and innovative space technology companies.

We support the creation 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.

Space Environment Technologies is the leading U.S. commercial organization providing space weather services and products. We operationally support the USAF Joint Space Operations Center (JSpOC) at Vandenberg AFB with hourly forecasts of solar and geomagnetic indices for updating the NORAD satellite catalog for all space objects. SET has also developed and is deploying the first capability for monitoring, in real-time, the radiation environment at aircraft altitudes to manage the risk from large solar particle events and their associated hazards to crew and avionics health.

Space Environment Technologies is also a proud member of the American Commercial Space Weather Association (ACSWA), an association dedicated to improving America's competitive edge in space.

I thank you and the co-sponsors for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

W. Kent Tobiska
President
Space Environment Technologies

CC: U.S. Rep. Brian Babin and U.S. Rep. Jim Bridenstine