

9 June 2017

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chair, House Committee on Science,
Space & Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Ranking Member, House Committee on
Science, Space & Technology
394 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Johnson,

Planetary Resources is in strong support of the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act (ASCFEA), H.R. 2809. This legislation continues the leadership, vision, and bipartisanship of the Committee in support of America's commercial space industry. Building upon the Commercial Space Launch and Competitiveness Act (CSLCA), P.L.114-90, this legislation will enable our business to innovate and pioneer new economic opportunities in outer space in accordance with international law.

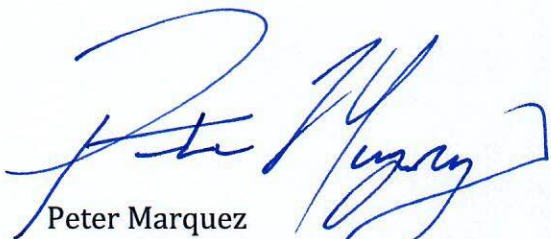
Specifically, we are pleased to see a clear, transparent, and responsive process for Planetary Resources to plan and execute its mission of asteroid prospecting and mining. This process creates the mechanism for the United States to authorize and supervise the activities of its citizens in space, in accordance with Article VI of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty.

This legislation is highly beneficial to the U.S. commercial space industry. Planetary Resources would like to highlight the following areas that we believe would increase the effectiveness of the legislation:

- With regard to §80304, we recommend amending the section to require concurrence of the Secretary of State or eliminating it altogether. Planetary Resources believes the State Department retains experience and expertise that is critical for informing the development of the least restrictive and most beneficial process to meet our international obligations and supporting industry.
- With regard to §2(b)(1), we recommend striking the phrase “without conditions or limitations” because it is internally inconsistent. The subsections in the bill that follow provide conditions for the use of space by U.S. citizens and entities.
- With regard to §80309, we recommend moving this language to §2(a), Findings, and changing the text to read:
 - *That “global commons” is not a legal concept and neither gives rise to nor affects any of the United States international obligations.*

We are grateful for the persistent leadership and support this Committee provides to the commercial space industry. Planetary Resources looks forward to working with the Committee to ensure a competitive, stable, and forward-looking legal framework that enhances this market, meets our international obligations and continues the United States’ leadership in commercial space activities.

Respectfully,



Peter Marquez
Vice President for Global Engagement
Planetary Resources

CC:

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy

The Honorable Brian Babin

The Honorable Ami Bera

The Honorable Jim Bridenstine

The Honorable Clay Higgins

The Honorable Randy Hultgren

The Honorable Derek Kilmer

The Honorable Ed Perlmutter

The Honorable Dana Rohrabacher

The Honorable Randy Weber