



500 New Jersey Avenue NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20001
27 April 2015

Chairman Lamar Smith
House Science Committee
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson
House Science Committee
394 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Johnson,

The Commercial Spaceflight Federation (CSF), representing over 50 member companies across the United States, is grateful for the time and energy you, your staff and the other Members of the House Science, Space, & Technology Committee put into developing the *National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act for 2016 and 2017* that you plan to mark up this week.

We greatly appreciate the Committee's increased support for the Commercial Crew Program as exhibited by the bill authorizing full funding for FY' 2016 and 2017. Full funding is necessary to support two contracted providers as strongly recommended by NASA's independent Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel (ASAP) for safety, reliability and schedule performance. NASA's CCtCap Contract will restore America's capability to launch American astronauts on American rockets from American soil by 2017 and end our sole reliance on Russia. Combined with American commercial cargo capabilities, crew will expand ISS scientific research and technology development activities, including risk reduction experiments necessary for future deep space exploration missions.

We are also pleased that the legislation would authorize full funding for Advanced Exploration Systems (AES). AES initiatives enable NASA to leverage industry's investments in the development of exploration capabilities such as lunar landers and expandable habitat modules. These public-private partnerships will undoubtedly play a critical role in extending the Nation's sustained human presence beyond Earth orbit.

While this bill represents progress in key areas, we remain concerned about some provisions in the bill that must be addressed prior to final passage. These concerns include, among other things, limitations on NASA's use of Space Act Agreements (SAAs). SAAs are a vital tool that NASA has used to reduce cost and increase innovation. We look forward to continuing to work with the Committee to address our concerns as it improves this bill through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Eric W. Stallmer
President