

April 16, 2018

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman
House Science, Space, and Technology
Committee

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Ranking Member
House Science, Space, and Technology
Committee

The Honorable Brian Babin
Chairman
Space Subcommittee

The Honorable Ami Bera
Ranking Member
Space Subcommittee

Dear Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Johnson, Chairman Babin, and Ranking Member Bera:

As the world's leading space-based manufacturer, Made In Space is a major user of the International Space Station (ISS) and its National Laboratory (NL). As such, we believe it is critically important that Congress develop and implement a plan to maximize the use and commercialization of the ISS and its NL, as well as a transition plan that ensures a seamless transfer of capabilities, including the NL, as the ISS reaches the end of its life. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2018 helps accomplish these important goals, and Made In Space supports the bill.

The work that Made In Space is doing on the ISS directly supports several of NASA's priorities. Our 3D printers on the ISS have created many custom-designed objects for the crew. This capability supports NASA's human exploration mission by allowing on-demand manufacturing for long-duration space travel. Another of our manufacturing devices is also producing ZBLAN optical fiber, which can only be produced optimally in space, for sale on Earth. This capability advances NASA's Low Earth Orbit commercialization priority. Made In Space is also preparing to demonstrate the ability to 3D print and assemble large structures in the vacuum of space, which will allow NASA to build very large satellites, vehicles, and other objects without subjecting them to the rigors of the launch environment. Each of these programs benefits NASA, and each depends on an orderly ISS transition plan with a strong NL component.

As the bill moves forward, Made In Space hopes to work with the Committee to add language that specifically authorizes increases in funding for the ISS National Lab and increases funding for space-based demand activities, in order to more fully realize the goal of Low Earth Orbit commercialization.

Sincerely,

Andrew Rush
CEO
Made In Space