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Committee on Space, Science and Technology US House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

June 7, 2017

Dear Chairman Smith.

Thank you for marking up the <u>American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act of 2017</u> in the Committee on Science, Space and Technology. Carmel Research Center, Inc. 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has a number of important provisions, most important is that the proposed legislation will simplify and strengthen the outdated space-based remote sensing regulatory system.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.

Carmel Research Center, Inc. is an important business in space weather. We have worked in many of the basic space weather efforts including instrument development and implementation, and many diverse areas of theoretical and physics-based methods in predicting space weather events at Earth and throughout the solar system.

Carmel Research Center, Inc. is also a member of the American Commercial Space Weather Association (ACSWA), which is dedicated to improving the USA's efforts in space research, space weather, and international competiveness.

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Devrie S. Intriligator

Director, Space Plasma Laboratory

Carmel Research Center, Inc.

CC: US Rep. Brian Babin and US Rep. Jim Bridenstine