



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of the General Counsel
Washington, D.C. 20230

APR 18 2008

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman, Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6125

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to reiterate the Bush Administration's support for Congressional action on proposed legislation originally titled the *Space Commerce Act of 2007*. The legislation is required to ensure the Office of Space Commercialization (the Office) can successfully execute its mission on behalf of the Department of Commerce to foster the economic growth and technological advancement of the U.S. space industry.

In Fiscal Year 2004, Congress transferred funding for the Office from the Technology Administration to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Since then, NOAA has provided the commitment necessary to strengthen the Office's capabilities to include release of a strategic plan envisioning a robust and responsive U.S. industry that is the world leader in space commerce.

The legislation is necessary to update the Office's responsibilities in response to current U.S. space industry needs. The legislation also strengthens the Office's authorities to ensure U.S. space commerce continues to thrive in an increasingly competitive global marketplace. Finally, the legislation will provide the legal framework to guarantee the long-term capability of the Office to promote U.S. space industry innovation and competition.

The Administration looks forward to working with Congress to enact this important legislation. I have enclosed the original draft bill and accompanying transmittal letter dated September 17, 2007, for your information. If you have any questions, please contact me or Nathaniel F. Wienecke, Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David K. Bowsher".

David K. Bowsher
Acting General Counsel

Enclosure

Identical Letters Sent to:

The Honorable Ted Stevens
Vice-Chairman, Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
United States Senate

The Honorable Bart Gordon
Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Ralph M. Hall
Ranking Member, Committee on Science
and Technology