

July 7, 2025

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chair Moran and Ranking Member Van Hollen:

We write today on behalf of more than 450 U.S. space, satellite, and defense companies to urge the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science to provide sufficient funding for the Office of Space Commerce (OSC) in the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations bill – specifically funding OSC at \$65M, the Fiscal Year 2025 appropriated level. We also urge the Subcommittee to ensure continued execution of funds appropriated to OSC in Fiscal Year 2025.

The mission of OSC is to foster the economic growth and technological advancement of the U.S. commercial space industry – a cutting-edge sector that enables U.S. technological leadership and strategic competitiveness. According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, the space economy supported almost 400,000 jobs and accounted for \$142.5 billion, or 0.5 percent, of total U.S. GDP in 2023.¹ OSC's policy, regulatory, and information sharing activities provide critical support to the entire U.S. space sector and enable its continued expansion.

One of OSC's most important functions is to provide space traffic coordination support to U.S. satellite operators, similar to the Federal Aviation Administration's role in air traffic control for the U.S. airline industry. Helping the U.S. space industry operate safely in an increasingly congested space domain ensures space-based services like broadband internet and weather forecasting are available to the American people. Likewise, a safe space operating environment is vital for continuity of national security space missions such as early warning of missile attacks on deployed U.S. military forces. Without funding for space traffic coordination, U.S. commercial and government satellite operators would face greater risks – putting critical missions in harm's way, raising the cost of doing business, and potentially driving U.S. industry to relocate overseas.

Moreover, failure to fund OSC adequately risks reverting the space traffic coordination mission to the Department of Defense despite longstanding U.S. policy favoring civil oversight. Successive administrations have recognized on a bipartisan basis that space traffic coordination is a global, commercial-facing function best managed by a civilian agency. Keeping space traffic coordination within the Department of Commerce preserves military resources for core defense missions and prevents the conflation of space safety with military control – critical to U.S. leadership in setting international standards and norms for space activities.

¹ See <https://apps.bea.gov/scb/issues/2025/03-march/0325-space-economy.htm>. For comparison, the U.S. agriculture sector accounts for 0.9 percent of total U.S. GDP.

At a time when the United States is facing increasing competition from many corners of the globe, OSC is an invaluable partner to the U.S. space industry. Providing sufficient funding in Fiscal Year 2026 will allow OSC to continue supporting the competitiveness of the U.S. space industry as both the market landscape and orbital environment become increasingly crowded. Industry looks forward to continuing to work with OSC on optimizing its provision of space traffic coordination support to maximize utility for satellite operators and leverage innovation from the private sector.

We thank the committee for its continued support and attention to a matter vital to our nation's economic and national security interests.

Sincerely,



**COMMERCIAL
SSA
COALITION**



cc: The Honorable Howard Lutnick, Secretary of Commerce
The Honorable Pete Hegseth, Secretary of Defense
The Honorable Paul Dabbar, Deputy Secretary of Commerce
The Honorable Steve Feinberg, Deputy Secretary of Defense
Laura Grimm, Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and
Administrator of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration