



**GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
Washington, D.C. 20230

SEP 17 2007

The Honorable Richard B. Cheney  
President of the Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Bush Administration, I respectfully submit for Congressional consideration and action the *Space Commerce Act of 2007*, a bill to amend the *Technology Administration Act of 1998* (15 U.S.C. § 1511e(a)). I also enclose a statement of purpose and need, a section-by-section analysis, and a redline of current statutory text.

The Office of Space Commercialization, currently funded within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and authorized within the Department of Commerce under the *Technology Administration Act of 1998*, is the principal unit for space commerce policy activities within the Department of Commerce. The Office's mission is to foster the conditions for the economic growth and the technological advancement of the U.S. commercial space industry.

The original "Office of Space Commerce" was established in 1988 by Secretary of Commerce William Verity through Department Organization Order 15-19 (12/2/1988), which placed it within the Office of the Secretary. The Office was later renamed the Office of Space Commercialization under Section 8 of the *Technology Administration Act of 1998* (Public Law 105-309, 15 U.S.C. § 1511e(a)). In 2004, Congress moved funding for the Office from the Technology Administration to NOAA under a provision of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005 (Public Law 108-447).

This legislation restores the Office's original name, "Office of Space Commerce," to more accurately reflect its space commerce responsibilities. In addition, the legislation updates the Office's functions to reflect the current state of the U.S. space commerce industry to include expanding geospatial activities. The legislation streamlines the functions of the Office to preserve flexibility for the Department in executing the Office's responsibilities, and expands the Office's responsibilities in supporting the U.S. Space-Based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing (PNT) Policy.

The Administration looks forward to working with the Congress to enact this legislation. We have been advised by the Office of Management and Budget that there is no objection to the submission of this draft legislation from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Sullivan".

John J. Sullivan

Enclosures

Identical Letters Sent to:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6501

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-7010

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-6502

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-7020

The Honorable John A. Boehner  
Republican Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6537

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

The Honorable Bart Gordon  
Chair, Committee of Science  
and Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6301

The Honorable Ted Stevens  
Vice-Chair, Committee on Commerce,  
Science, and Transportation  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6125

The Honorable Ralph M. Hall  
Ranking Member, Committee of Science  
and Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6301