

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 21, 2016

Mr. Winston Beauchamp
Deputy Undersecretary of the Air Force (Space)
Room 4C855
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670C

Dear Mr. Beauchamp:

We write to ask you to continue to incorporate commercially hosted payloads. As you are aware, the concept of a hosted payload was developed in order to enable government organizations to make use of commercial satellite platforms to reduce costs and enable a more distributed and resilient space architecture.

Various elements of U.S. policy encourage an increasing role for commercial space to meet government requirements. For example, the National Space Policy, National Space Transportation Policy and the National Security Space Strategy all explicitly direct departments and agencies to explore the use of hosted payload arrangements when planning space-based missions to meet United States Government requirements. These policies also note that public-private partnerships with the commercial space industry can offer timely, cost-effective options to fill government requirements.

We recognize the potential for hosted payloads to provide a reliable, responsive and cost-effective capability to the Department of Defense. As such, we request your current assessment and future plans to leverage this commercial capability for the Department's benefit.

Sincerely,



MARK R. WARNER
United States Senate



TIM KAINÉ
United States Senate