



12 March 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Collins, Vice Chair Murray, Chair Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

America’s leadership in aerospace depends on a strong workforce, cutting-edge research, and stable, strategic investments in technology. As a preeminent aerospace power, our national security and economic prosperity are directly tied to sustained investment in technological development and critical missions. Maintaining our global leadership and advancing innovation requires unwavering commitment and support.

To stay ahead, we believe the U.S. government must commit to staffing agencies at levels that strengthen our national security, drive innovation, and ensure global competitiveness. We urge Congress to prioritize funding and support for the aerospace and defense sectors.

America’s federal and private aerospace workforce comprises more than 2.21 million aerospace professionals ¹across the \$900 billion aerospace industry, the U.S. government, and our academic institutions. Their expertise and experience have led to groundbreaking research, unrivaled safety, unprecedented discoveries, and unique commercial products and services that power the U.S. economy.

Preserving a skilled federal workforce is critical to our nation’s success. Agencies need experts in science, engineering, and technology to lead complex programs. We must invest in the people who shape the future. Talented industry teams need highly qualified government counterparts when they are developing and implementing transformative technologies.

¹[Aerospace Industries Association 2024 Facts & Figures: State Data](#)

Federal programs should leverage industry investments to drive innovation and maintain U.S. leadership. We need to enhance public-private partnerships to accelerate progress and maximize resources.

Meanwhile, research and development in aerospace fuels innovation and keeps America at the forefront of technology. Funding for advanced technology is essential to national security and our economic strength. The future depends on embracing artificial intelligence smartly and securely, enhancing our computing power with advanced chips, and accelerating next-generation aerospace and defense systems. Without sustained funding, we risk falling behind our adversaries.

Safety must always be the top national priority, supported by strong governance that promotes growth and stability. NASA, NOAA and FAA play a vital role in ensuring safe operations in the air and in space today, while also integrating new technologies into our airspace. Reusable launch, hypersonics, urban air mobility, autonomous flight, and next-generation air traffic management require clear regulations and oversight that spur innovation. Safety and efficiency must guide these advancements.

We urge the Congress to act now and secure America's future in aviation, space, science, and defense. A strong federal and private workforce, cutting-edge research, and smart investments are fundamental to our nation's security, economic strength, and technological edge. We stand ready to work with you to advance these priorities. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to maintaining America's global aerospace leadership.

Sincerely,

Clay Mowry, CEO, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)

Steven Wolfe, President and Co-Founder, Beyond Earth Institute

Dave Cavossa, CEO, Commercial Space Federation (CSF)

Lisa Dyer, Executive Director, GPS Innovation Alliance

Timothy T. Lee, President, IEEE-USA

Robert Zubrin, President, The Mars Society

Bill Nye, CEO, The Planetary Society

Jacqueline El-Sayed, Ph.D., CEO, SAE International, Performance Review Institute, and SAE Industry Technologies Consortia

Dr. Peter Martinez, Executive Director, Secure World Foundation

Angelo Collins, Executive Director, Vertical Flight Society