

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2404

August 19, 2019

Mr. Randy Repcheck
Office of Commercial Space Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20591

Dear Mr. Repcheck,

I am writing regarding the Federal Aviation Administration's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for *Streamlined Launch and Reentry Licensing Requirements* (Docket No. FAA-2019-0029). The FAA Office of Commercial Space Transportation has undertaken an important task of streamlining performance-based commercial launch and reentry regulations.

At the FAA's request, the Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC), a group of twenty-four commercial space stakeholders, provided recommendations for establishing a performance-based regulatory approach to licensing requirements. Through ARC both industry stakeholders and the FAA were able to gain a greater understanding of regulations in areas of flight safety, efficiency, and technological innovations. The ARC achieved broad consensus with all members supporting streamlining the launch and reentry licensing process.

This NPRM will affect America's commercial space industry for decades to come; the FAA should undertake further engagement with commercial stakeholders to produce lasting streamlined performance-based regulations. Prescriptive regulations have the potential to stifle industry innovations and fail to ensure a level and fair playing field for established launch operators as well as commercial space start-ups. The NPRM lacks clarity for industry to provide meaningful input on the effect to their spaceflight operations in addition to lacking guidance documents and advisory circulars the FAA has yet published.

I encourage the FAA to issue a supplemental NPRM after further considering ARC recommendations and additional input from industry. I am confident the FAA can achieve a better result after further engagement with industry stakeholders.

Sincerely,



Steven M. Palazzo
Member of Congress