

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

November 20, 2025

Honorable Russell Vought
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Vought:

We write to express our deep concern regarding reported cuts to the Office of Space Commerce's (OSC) budget. It is essential that the United States maintains its world-leading commercial space industry – and a thriving, well-resourced OSC is critical to that aim.

Recent reporting indicates that the Office of Management and Budget notified OSC it was only entitled to an annual budget of \$37 million, a 40 percent cut from its \$65 million Congressionally authorized budget based on the Fiscal Year 2024 enacted level and extended by the March 14 Continuing Resolution.¹ The Administration's cut is clearly below what both House and Senate appropriators have called for in Fiscal Year 2026.²³ The risk of reduced funding for OSC recently compelled leading commercial and defense space associations to request \$65 million in FY26 funding and warn that inadequate funding for space traffic coordination – a key responsibility of OSC – risks “putting critical missions in harm's way, raising the cost of doing business, and potentially driving U.S. industry to relocate overseas.”²⁴

Among several important responsibilities, OSC is developing the Traffic Coordination System for Space (TraCSS), which will provide basic space situational awareness to civil and private space entities, supporting space traffic coordination and minimizing the risk of collisions. OSC's efforts to ensure a safe, well-coordinated space environment will protect space-based services such as GPS, broadband, and resource management, among other important functions. Reduced funding risks degrading OSC's TraCSS efforts, which would lead to greater uncertainty and a more dangerous orbital environment.

¹ Bloomberg News, “Trump Claws Back 2025 Funding for Commercial Space Office,” *Bloomberg*, September 5, 2025, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-09-05/trump-claws-back-2025-funding-for-commercial-space-office>

² U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Appropriations, *Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2026*, 119th Cong., 1st sess., Full Committee Print, House Doc. HMKP-119-AP00-20250910-SD002 (header dated July 2025), <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/AP/AP00/20250910/118544/HMKP-119-AP00-20250910-SD002.pdf>

³ U.S. Senate, Committee on Appropriations, *Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2026*, S. Rep. 119-44, 119th Cong., 1st sess., July 17, 2025, https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fy26_cjs_senate_report.pdf

⁴ Commercial Space SSA Coalition, “Letter to Senate on OSC Funding,” July 7, 2025 (PDF letter to Sens. Jerry Moran and Chris Van Hollen), <https://fedscoop.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2025/07/2025-07-07-Letter-to-Senate-on-OSC-Funding-FINAL.pdf>

For years, OSC has been an essential partner to the U.S. space industry, a key pillar of the American innovation economy. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, in 2023, the space economy accounted for \$142.5 billion of total U.S. GDP in 2023, created \$240.9 billion in gross output, and supported 373,000 private sector jobs.⁵ While the global space economy has continued to grow, the U.S. has been the clear driver of that growth: in 2024, global satellite manufacturing revenues grew to \$20 billion, and American firms earned nearly 70 percent of that market share.⁶ But at the same time, our competition is increasing as China and other global competitors ramp up investment in their own commercial space industries.

We must ensure our government agencies are equipped to continue partnering with our space industry. To that end, we request the Administration maintain OSC's previously enacted funding level of \$65 million.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important issue. We look forward to receiving your response.

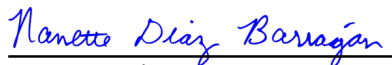
Sincerely,



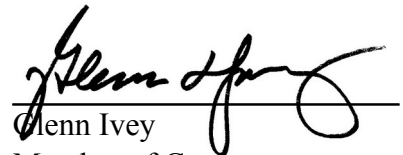
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



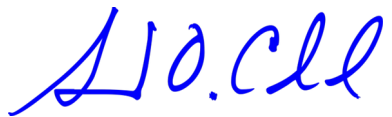
Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress

⁵ Patrick Georgi and Chris Surfield, "New and Revised Statistics for the U.S. Space Economy, 2012–2023," *Survey of Current Business* (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis), March 31, 2025, <https://apps.bea.gov/scb/issues/2025/03-march/0325-space-economy.htm>

⁶ Satellite Industry Association, "Historic Number of Launches Powers Commercial Satellite Industry Growth—Satellite Industry Association Releases the 28th Annual *State of the Satellite Industry Report*," press release, May 13, 2025, <https://sia.org/historic-number-of-launches-powers-commercial-satellite-industry-growth-satellite-industry-association-releases-the-28th-annual-state-of-the-satellite-industry-report/>



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress