



June 8, 2009

The Honorable Howard L. Berman
Chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the Satellite Industry Association¹, I am writing to thank you for your leadership in including export control reform provisions in H.R. 2410, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011. In particular, the industry very much appreciates Section 826, which would restore authority to the Executive Branch to determine the appropriate export licensing jurisdiction for satellites and related components.

As you know, SIA has long advocated for a return of Executive Branch authority over satellites, in order to offset the overly broad regulation that has disadvantaged U.S. spacecraft and component manufacturers in the global marketplace, without necessarily having accomplished the desired intent. We also have been concerned about the unintended consequences of satellite export policies on the health of the underlying space industrial base supporting the defense, intelligence and civil space communities.

Section 826 would allow U.S. export policies to adapt to changes in satellite manufacturing technology, enabling greater focus on the most sensitive items that merit the most stringent controls. The satellite industry believes that the policy changes intended by this provision will help put U.S. manufacturers of satellites and related components on more even competitive footing in the \$144 billion global satellite market, reinforcing America's global technological leadership, while safeguarding jobs and critical space technology for the nation.

This is the first time since 2003 that Congress has considered legislation to update satellite export controls. We appreciate your leadership in once again taking up this critical issue, and stand ready to work with you and your staff to ensure that, as the measure advances, it achieves the desired objectives.

Very best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Patricia Cooper
President, SIA

¹ SIA Executive Members include: Artel Inc.; The Boeing Company; DataPath, Inc.; CapRock Government Solutions; The DIRECTV Group; Hughes Network Systems, LLC; ICO Global Communications; Integral Systems, Inc.; Intelsat, Ltd.; Iridium Satellite, LLC; Lockheed Martin Corp.; Loral Space & Communications Inc.; Northrop Grumman Corporation; SES Americom, Inc.; SkyTerra; and TerreStar Networks, Inc. Associate Members include: ATK Inc.; Comtech EF Data Corp.; DRS Technologies, Inc.; EchoStar Satellite, LLC; EMC, Inc.; Eutelsat Inc.; iDirect Government Technologies; Inmarsat Inc.; Marshall Communications Corp.; Panasonic Avionics Corporation; Spacecom Ltd.; Stratos Global Corp; SWE-DISH Space Corp; Telesat; ViaSat Inc.; and WildBlue Communications, Inc. Additional information about SIA can be found at <http://www.sia.org>.