



Marion C. Blakey  
President and Chief Executive Officer

July 1, 2009

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
The Capitol, S-128  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
The Capitol, S-128  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran:

As the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA), representing nearly 300 manufacturing companies with hundreds of thousands of high-wage, highly skilled employees, I respectfully urge you to support funding levels for the Department of Defense that ensure a healthy and productive U.S. space industrial base.

To prevent further degradation to an already weakened space industrial base, and maintain key capabilities needed on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century battlefield, robust and stable funding across all national security space programs is essential. In recent testimony before the House Armed Services Committee, a representative for the Department of Defense testified about the important role funding stability plays in the maintenance of a healthy space industrial base. To quote directly from the testimony, "Today the Space and Intelligence community faces challenges with an aging workforce and low recruitment, resulting in inadequate junior and middle management for the future... Stable funding in the industrial base... will be necessary for any recovery."

In order to ensure industrial stability needed for the development of our nation's space capabilities, AIA urges you to support the following funding levels:

- Support the President's \$11.1 billion request for Department of Defense national security space programs for Fiscal Year 2010. This funding is necessary to maintaining our nation's space industrial base and the key space capabilities it produces.

- Support \$10.9 billion for the Missile Defense Agency's Fiscal Year 2010 budget. This funding level would not increase funds for ballistic missile defense, yet would hold the line on funding levels approved for Fiscal Year 2009 and ensure a continued vigorous commitment to missile defense.
- Support the President's Fiscal Year 2010 request of \$112.9 million for the Operationally Responsive Space (ORS) Office, the additional \$103.4 million in funding requested by the Air Force for ORS in its unfunded requirements, and other key ORS initiatives such as the Navy's \$16 million Tactical Space Exploitation initiative as well as ORS efforts within the Army and Air Force Research Laboratory.

Today's national security space platforms provide key capabilities such as global satellite communications, government and commercial launch services, missile warning and defense, space protection and situational awareness, global positioning, earth observation, and investments in future technologies to meet growing demands. The U.S. warfighter increasingly relies on satellite bandwidth for UAV support in the mountains of Afghanistan. When Iran or North Korea launches a missile, space systems provide needed early warning to the U.S. and our allies. Both space systems and ballistic missile defense systems protect the U.S. homeland and provide forward defense of U.S. global interests. They are an investment in U.S. security.

Regarding the ORS concept, AIA believes that – if adequately and stably funded – it could provide important response capabilities to unforeseen events or unanticipated gaps in space capabilities. Such reconstitution of space assets is a vital component of U.S. space protection efforts. AIA strongly urges Congress to provide the resources needed to strengthen the ORS concept, support the warfighter and industrial base, and ensure the operation of future ORS activities.

Currently, the U.S. government relies on the space industry and its over 140,000 workers and scientists to design, develop, and build critical national security space platforms. Given our increasing reliance upon space, growing threats, and aging systems, the nation needs to maintain a solid and stable commitment to funding national security space systems to both sustain existing capabilities and modernize systems to meet unsatisfied and emerging needs. In addition, we must continue to invest in future systems, including the science and technology and research and development needed to meet growing demands.

Thank you for your support and consideration of this request.

Regards,



Marion C. Blakey



Marion C. Blakey  
President and Chief Executive Officer

July 1, 2009

The Honorable John P. Murtha  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Defense  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Room H-149 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Defense  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Murtha and Ranking Member Young:

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Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Marion C. Blakey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Marion C. Blakey