



May 15, 2020

Senator Roger Wicker  
Chairman  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
U.S. Senate  
512 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wicker:

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in and address the committee as you work to consider policy surrounded the COVID-19 pandemic. The Coalition for Deep Space Exploration and its member companies are very appreciative of all the work your committee does in supporting the space community, particularly during this challenging time for both our nation and the entire world.

We agree with you that it is imperative that we maintain our nation's space capabilities, for our economic wellbeing, national security, and for our leadership in the world. Our flagship programs, established in law by Congress, form the background of the U.S. space economy. The broad footprint of our core national programs such as the Space Launch System, Orion, and Exploration Ground Systems, with suppliers in all fifty states, sustain our industrial base during times of economic hardship and ensure constancy of purpose amid a changing market. It is crucial the we work to support that industrial base now during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I have included here a short three page report on a COVID-19 impact survey we conducted of our member companies between April 28 and May 11, 2020. We conducted our first survey between March 19 and 23, and have included that report here as well. This second survey follows up on the first and helps gauge the ongoing impact of actions taken regarding the pandemic.

Many of our member companies, which includes a large number of small businesses, are experiencing contract cancelations and delays, as well as supply chain issues. Many are concerned about liability issues surrounding COVID-19 and employees returning to the workplace. You will find on the last page suggestions from our companies on actions to help lessen impact and strengthen our space programs.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions, or for further discussion. Thank you again for your continued leadership on the importance of space to our country's leadership, national security, and well-being.

Sincerely,

Mary Lynne Dittmar, Ph.D.  
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