

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 25, 2017

The Honorable Steven H. Walker
Acting Director, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency
675 North Randolph Street
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Acting Director Walker:

We are concerned that DARPA's Robotic Servicing of Geosynchronous Satellite (RSGS) program is duplicating commercial investment and capability in violation of National Space Policy and contrary to the best interests of taxpayers. We urge you to promptly review this program to ensure its compliance with the 2010 National Space Policy. As Acting Director, you should stop any further action on RSGS until the review is completed.

The 2010 National Space Policy directs government agencies to "energize competitive domestic industries to participate in global markets"¹. In particular, it mandates that federal agencies adhere to these guidelines:

- (1) Develop governmental space systems only when it is in the national interest and there is no suitable, cost-effective U.S. commercial or, as appropriate, foreign commercial service or system that is or will be available;
- (2) Refrain from conducting space activities that preclude, discourage or compete with U.S. commercial space activities, unless required by national security or public safety; and
- (3) Ensure that government space technology and infrastructure are made available for commercial use on a reimbursable, noninterference and equitable basis to the maximum practical extent.²

DARPA's current plan for RSGS conflicts with these provisions. Under the current plan, DARPA will obligate at least \$200 million to a single private operator, who will retain both the satellite and the associated intellectual property. This could dramatically disrupt normal market conditions in the emerging in-space satellite servicing sector and undermine current and future private investment in this type of advanced technology.

Commercial companies have made investments in these technologies for the purpose of providing in-space satellite servicing to other private satellite operators. DARPA and the Department of Defense should seek to procure services from these entities rather than distorting the market.

¹ https://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/ast/national_space_policy/media/national_space_policy.pdf

² Id.

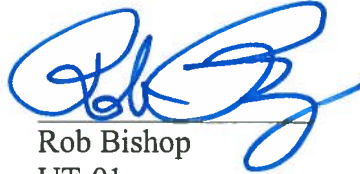
Again, we request this program be put on hold and reviewed. In addition, we request you make DARPA personnel available to brief us at the conclusion of such a review.

Thank you for your work to improve our nation's defense, we appreciate your prompt attention and look forward to working with you to resolve this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Bridenstine
OK-01



Rob Bishop
UT-01



Barbara Comstock
VA-10