



Marion C. Blakey  
President and Chief Executive Officer

June 05, 2009

The Honorable Howard Berman  
House Foreign Relations Committee  
2170 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States Congress  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Berman:

On behalf of the 275 member companies we represent across the United States, the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) would like to express our support for your Committee's bill, H.R. 2410 (Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011). This bipartisan bill attempts to address America's declining competitiveness in the global commercial satellite market, protect high-paying and high-skilled U.S. jobs, and provide for a more predictable, efficient, and transparent export control system.

Section 826 of H.R. 2410 will remove commercial satellites and their related components from the U.S. Munitions List. This is a long-sought remedy to reverse a law passed in 1998 that contributed to the dramatic decline of U.S. share in the global commercial satellite market. In 1998, U.S. firms accounted for 73% of the world's commercial satellite market. By 2000, U.S. market share had dwindled to an astonishing 27%. By creating a more efficient export control system for commercial satellites, your bill will help strengthen the U.S. industrial base and will ensure the U.S. Government has the tools necessary to protect our national security interests.

H.R. 2410 also includes language that will increase State Department staff to process export licenses and provide flexibility in using funds to support licensing operations, important steps in reducing the processing time for export licenses. AIA has long advocated for a more predictable, efficient and transparent export control system and this bill is a positive step forward.

Moving forward, AIA looks forward to working with both the House and Senate on this and other legislation.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Marion Blakey'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Marion C. Blakey