

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 22, 2011

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

The Honorable James R. Clapper, Jr.
Director of National Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20511

Dear Secretary Panetta and Director Clapper:

We write to express our support for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's (NGA) EnhancedView (EV) program. Under the "2 + 2" concept, the government initiated a public-private partnership in Fiscal Year 2010 to leverage commercial satellite imagery to cost-effectively complement national overhead capabilities. It is our understanding that the commercial sector's performance is right on target. The government gained immediate access to new, more capable assets resulting in significant day-to-day imagery collection, production, and services supporting the defense and intelligence communities.

The current administration, through presidential directives and national space policies, continues to express support for using commercial industry to the maximum extent practicable to meet government needs. This approach provides the United States and our allies a valuable source of shareable geospatial data to support coalition operations; grows an organic industrial base that creates high technology jobs; and maintains the U.S. industry as a premier commercial satellite imagery provider in the global marketplace.

The EnhancedView construct also allows the government to leverage private investment. The two U.S. commercial satellite imagery providers collectively committed over a billion dollars of private capital to fulfill their EV obligations, well in advance of being paid by the government, predicated on a stable, ten-year commitment by the government in the form of the EV contract. In this period of extreme fiscal restraint, this partnership represents a creative solution that should be applauded and emulated.

Despite these successes, it is our understanding that under budget pressures, the Department of Defense is considering major reductions that could potentially result in severe damage to the EV program. These potential impacts are greater given the investments both satellite imagery providers have already made to create new satellites, ground infrastructure, and operational capability to meet NGA's needs for improved collection capability, faster timelines, and increased security.

In addition, a change to the EnhancedView baseline could mean a lasting loss of credibility for the U.S. Government when it comes to any similar arrangement in the future, whether it is for commercial space launch, telecommunications, or any other area that requires industry to make up-front investments against a long-term need.

We appreciate the enormity of the challenge you face in attempting to balance projected funding with needed future capabilities. However, we seek your support to ensure that the Department and

Intelligence Community confront this difficult decision in a balanced and objective manner and ensure that the capability needed in the future is not irreparably lost.

We firmly believe the U.S. commercial remote sensing industry will continue to create jobs and remain globally competitive, if the government fulfills its commitment. A continued partnership with the government will allow the industry to rapidly and cost-effectively provide new, more capable assets to meet the government's needs in the defense and intelligence communities. We support the EnhancedView program and urge the Department and the Intelligence Community to sustain it as a critical complementary program in the nation's overhead architecture.

Sincerely,



Senator Mark Udall



Senator Mark R. Warner



Senator Roy Blunt



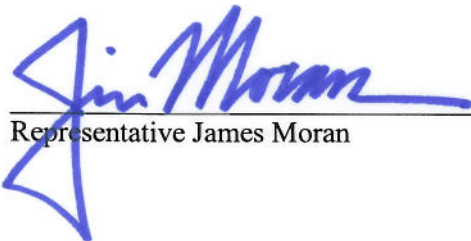
Senator Charles E. Schumer



Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand



Senator Michael F. Bennet



Representative James Moran



Representative Cory Gardner

Doug Lamborn

Representative Doug Lamborn

Mike Coffman

Representative Mike Coffman

Ed Perlmutter

Representative Ed Perlmutter

Tom Reed

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