



CALIFORNIA SPACE AND
TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE
THE CALIFORNIA SPACEPORT AUTHORITY

DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION

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February 15, 2001

FAA-00-7953-7

Docket Management System
U.S. Department of Transportation
Room Plaza 401
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

Re: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Licensing and Safety Requirements
For Launch; Docket No. 2000-7953; Notice No. 00-10

Dear Sir or Madam:

The purpose of this letter is to support the January 30, 2001, request submitted by the nation's major launch providers -- Lockheed Martin Corporation, Orbital Sciences Corporation, the Boeing Company, Sea Launch Company, L.L.C., and International Launch Services -- for an extension of 180 days in which to submit comments on the above referenced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). The subject NPRM proposes to amend existing regulations in order to codify the license application process for launches from non-federal launch sites. The NPRM also codifies the safety requirements for launch operators in connection with launches from both federal launch ranges and non-federal launch sites. Currently, the NPRM requires that comments be received no later than February 22, 2001.

California Space and Technology Alliance (CSTA)/The California Spaceport Authority is concerned that the current deadline for comments to the subject NPRM does not allow for a complete discussion of the issues raised in that NPRM. An extension of 180 days would provide the nation's launch service providers as well as launch site operators with sufficient time to fully identify, and address, issues raised in the subject NPRM.

CSTA recognizes that an extension of 180 days will require additional resources from the U.S. Department of Transportation. It is hoped, however, that this requirement will be balanced by the possibility of significant harm to the ability of the nation's launch providers and launch site operators to compete effectively in the international marketplace. Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Andrea Seastrand
Executive Director

Cc: Ms. Patricia Grace Smith
Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration (AST-1)
Room 331
800 Independence Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20591