

June 2, 2020



The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

Subject: Extending Appreciation for Commerce Department's Streamlined Rules on Commercial Remote Sensing Satellites

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the World Geospatial Industry Council (WGIC), I would like to extend our appreciation for the recent actions of the Commerce Department to adopt more streamlined rules for Commercial Remote Sensing Satellites. WGIC is a global association of geospatial companies, including commercial satellite operators, interested in growing the geospatial industry to benefit both economies and people. The recent action (15 CFR Part 960 [Docket No.: 200407-0101] RIN 0648-BA15) that you and your Department have taken will benefit U.S. industry, and therefore, the rest of the world.

There are several components of this recent action that are of most benefit to our community. Included among these are: 1.) allowing U.S. operators to sell imagery if that imagery can be bought in other countries; 2.) creating a more streamlined application process, recognizing that not all missions may require the same level of interagency review; and 3.) adopting time-limited technology controls, thereby recognizing the rate at which technological advancements occur, particularly with rapidly evolving spatial and spectral resolutions.

This revised ruling will improve a process that has: put U.S. companies at a disadvantage globally; has been unduly bureaucratic and time-consuming; and has generally not recognized the speed at which technological advancements occur. With each of these improvements in the process, I am confident that our industry will benefit both economically and technically. My experience has been that as U.S. companies innovate, this innovation raises the bar for companies elsewhere, permitting our industry to ensure that geospatial technologies and remote sensing capabilities touch every person every day.

Again, thank you for your leadership in this regard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sanjay Kumar'.

Sanjay Kumar
Secretary-General & Chief Executive Officer

World Geospatial Industry Council
Business Center, Unit 3-4
Barchman Wuytlierslaan 10
3818 LH Amersfoort, The Netherlands
Email: info@wgicouncil.org
Website: www.wgicouncil.org