

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SUPERVISORS

Phillip Peters District 1
Vacant District 2
Jeff Flores District 3
David Couch District 4
Leticia Perez District 5



KATHLEEN KRAUSE
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay (800) 735-2929

November 7, 2024

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Chair, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Making Advancements in Commercial Hypersonics (MACH) program - Support

Dear Senator Shaheen,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to urge your support for the inclusion of funding for the Making Advancements in Commercial Hypersonics (MACH) program in the Senate Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. The specific language we are hoping the Senate will adopt is that which was included in House Report 118-582 and is as follows:

House Report 118-582

Making Advancements in Commercial Hypersonics Program. The Committee supports NASA's efforts to collaborate with the commercial hypersonic industry to advance hypersonic endeavors. The recommendation includes \$15,000,000 for the Making Advancements in Commercial Hypersonics (MACH) program as directed to be established by the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying Public Law 118-42. The Committee directs NASA to focus on flight testing and to provide a briefing on the MACH program's advancement of the hypersonic industry's flight-testing efforts no later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act.

According to Defense Intelligence Agency testimony provided to the House Armed Services Committee earlier this year, China is now leading the world with its hypersonic weapons capabilities. While this is an alarming development, the strength of our nation has always been the intrepid spirit of our people. We must encourage America's private sector to meet the challenges of our time and build on the important work underway in our nation's research and development laboratories. The MACH program will build and strengthen the ongoing efforts at NASA by leveraging and encouraging private sector investment into the commercial hypersonics industry.

Modeled after NASA's Flight Opportunities Program, the MACH program (with \$15 million in funding) would be able to partner with the commercial hypersonics industry and pay for NASA payloads to be flown by its commercial hypersonics partners. This helps to mature NASA science and technology while also investing in the commercial hypersonics industry. In return, our nation's emerging commercial hypersonics industry

gets stronger with each additional investment and frees up NASA to focus on what this agency does best: pursuing scientific endeavors that the private sector cannot reach alone.

NASA has a proud tradition of hypersonics flight testing; this appropriations language supports that legacy and ensures the commercial hypersonics industry can continue to grow and thrive while also providing NASA with an opportunity to test in real-time conditions, providing an unmatched source of data to advance NASA's mission.

The MACH program language included in House Report 118-582 is bolstered by complementary efforts in the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. A bipartisan amendment authorizing the MACH program was adopted, by voice vote, in the House version of the NASA Reauthorization Act of 2024, which later passed the House on September 23, 2024, by a vote of 366 to 21. The MACH program would benefit not only NASA's scientific endeavors, but also propel an emerging industry that has the potential to greatly enhance our nation's technological development.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors urges your support of this important funding request, and we look forward to working with you to ensure its passage in the Senate.

Sincerely,



David Couch, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
The Honorable Alex Padilla, US Senate
The Honorable Laphonza Butler, US Senate
National Association of Counties
Townsend Public Affairs

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SUPERVISORS

Phillip Peters District 1
Vacant District 2
Jeff Flores District 3
David Couch District 4
Leticia Perez District 5



KATHLEEN KRAUSE
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay (800) 735-2929

November 7, 2024

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building
500 Constitution Ave NE, Room 331
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Laphonza Butler
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building
500 Constitution Ave NE, Room 112
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Making Advancements in Commercial Hypersonics (MACH) program - Support

Dear Senator Padilla and Senator Butler,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to urge your support for the inclusion of funding for the Making Advancements in Commercial Hypersonics (MACH) program in the Senate Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. The specific language we are hoping the Senate will adopt is that which was included in House Report 118-582 and is as follows:

House Report 118-582

Making Advancements in Commercial Hypersonics Program. The Committee supports NASA's efforts to collaborate with the commercial hypersonic industry to advance hypersonic endeavors. The recommendation includes \$15,000,000 for the Making Advancements in Commercial Hypersonics (MACH) program as directed to be established by the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying Public Law 118-42. The Committee directs NASA to focus on flight testing and to provide a briefing on the MACH program's advancement of the hypersonic industry's flight-testing efforts no later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act.

According to Defense Intelligence Agency testimony provided to the House Armed Services Committee earlier this year, China is now leading the world with its hypersonic weapons capabilities. While this is an alarming development, the strength of our nation has always been the intrepid spirit of our people. We must encourage America's private sector to meet the challenges of our time and build on the important work underway in our nation's research and development laboratories. The MACH program will build and strengthen the ongoing efforts at NASA by leveraging and encouraging private sector investment into the commercial hypersonics industry.

Modeled after NASA's Flight Opportunities Program, the MACH program (with \$15 million in funding) would be able to partner with the commercial hypersonics industry and pay for NASA payloads to be flown by its

commercial hypersonics partners. This helps to mature NASA science and technology while also investing in the commercial hypersonics industry. In return, our nation's emerging commercial hypersonics industry gets stronger with each additional investment and frees up NASA to focus on what this agency does best: pursuing scientific endeavors that the private sector cannot reach alone.

NASA has a proud tradition of hypersonics flight testing; this appropriations language supports that legacy and ensures the commercial hypersonics industry can continue to grow and thrive while also providing NASA with an opportunity to test in real-time conditions, providing an unmatched source of data to advance NASA's mission.

The MACH program language included in House Report 118-582 is bolstered by complementary efforts in the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. A bipartisan amendment authorizing the MACH program was adopted, by voice vote, in the House version of the NASA Reauthorization Act of 2024, which later passed the House on September 23, 2024, by a vote of 366 to 21. The MACH program would benefit not only NASA's scientific endeavors, but also propel an emerging industry that has the potential to greatly enhance our nation's technological development.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors urges your support of this important funding request, and we look forward to working with you to ensure its passage in the Senate.

Sincerely,



David Couch, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Committee
National Association of Counties
Townsend Public Affairs