



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
The Secretary of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

August 22, 2017

Mr. David F. Melcher  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Aerospace Industries Association  
1000 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1700  
Arlington, VA 22209-3928

Dear Mr. Melcher:

My thanks to you and the Aerospace Industries Association for bringing together interested groups and individuals nationwide to show their support for the aerospace industry and its workers through National Aerospace Week. Since being established by the Aerospace Industries Association in 2010, National Aerospace Week creates opportunity for the aerospace industry and its supporters to recognize the enormous contribution that the industry makes to America's economy, competitiveness, and national security.

The aerospace industry directly employs approximately 490,000 people in the United States. Strong foreign demand for U.S. products can lead to the growth of highly technical, well-paying jobs in this sector. Exports are vital to the aerospace industry (civil and defense), which contributed \$147 billion in total exports and accounted for 16.3% of all U.S. exports in goods last year. The industry is the Nation's second-largest gross exporter. The sector had a trade surplus of \$90.5 billion in 2016, maintaining a decades-long string of surpluses.

Your work with Department of Commerce staff over the years is commendable, and I look forward to working together to help the aerospace industry continue to grow, to export, and to thrive. Congratulations and good luck on National Aerospace Week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wilbur Ross".

Wilbur Ross