



CONFERS Statement on the Orbital Sustainability Act of 2022 (ORBITS Act)

The Consortium for Execution of Rendezvous and Servicing Operations (CONFERS) applauds Senators Hickenlooper, Cantwell, Wicker, and Lummis on introducing the Orbital Sustainability Act of 2022 (ORBITS Act), to establish a milestone demonstration program to reduce the amount of space debris in orbit. This bill, if passed, will codify into law a plan to execute more than a decade of Administration policy and Congressional direction to remediate orbital debris.

Among other things, this landmark bill would direct:

- the NASA Administrator, in coordination with the National Space Council, to identify and make public the orbital debris that poses the greatest threat to the safety of orbiting satellites and other on-orbit activities.
- the Space Technology Mission Directorate within NASA to establish a new debris remediation program and authorize \$150M for fiscal years 2023 through 2027.
- the procurement of orbital debris removal services through an open and honest competition.
- the relevant federal agencies to initiate a cadence of regular updates to the Orbital Debris Mitigation Standards and Practices (ODMSP), last revised in November 2019, to better adapt to a rapidly changing space domain.

The ORBITS Act signifies that reducing orbital debris is a joint effort between the government and the commercial sector. The member companies of CONFERS stand ready to respond — CONFERS represents more than 50 companies around the world, working to create a future where satellite servicing, including debris removal, empowers a robust space economy. This vision is only possible if space is safe, secure, and sustainably managed. With the ORBITS Act, the United States is taking a significant step towards reducing risk in orbit, laying a foundation for sustainable economic growth, and helping spur a new paradigm for in-space operations.