

2026 INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT

Cleared for Launch: Policy Recommendations in the New Era of Global Connectivity

The space economy is thriving due in part to the rapid growth of commercial launch capabilities. But demand for launch services still outpaces capacity. While several new rockets will soon enter the market to address this demand, the existing infrastructure and regulatory framework around launch is already stretched to its limits.

Increased satellite telecommunications deployment could unite millions of Americans and billions more globally who lack reliable broadband access. Deployment delays could hinder access to economic activities and critical digital services.

43.7M

Americans in need
of quality broadband
connectivity

70,000

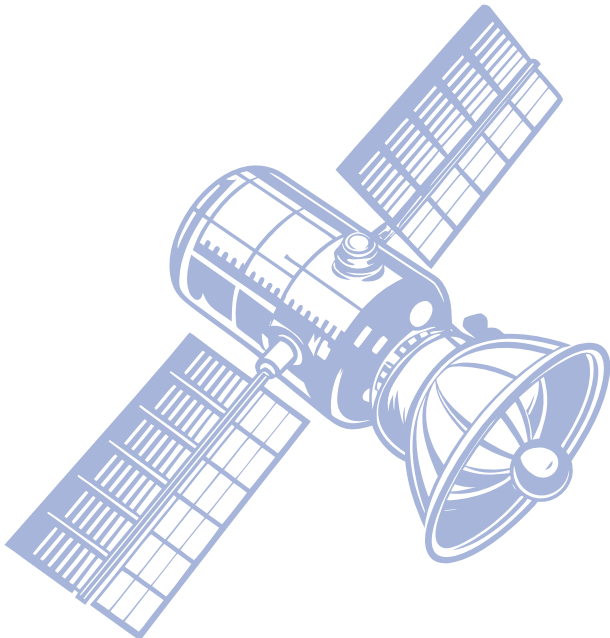
Telecommunications
satellites expected to
launch by 2030

5x

Increase needed in
current payload capacity
to meet demand

Who Benefits?

Satellite telecommunications is a great option for populations that are not well served by terrestrial options. It is often the preferable option for:



Rural Communities

Where fiber deployment is impractical or cost-prohibitive.

Airlines & Maritime Industries

Where operations extend beyond terrestrial network coverage.

Military Communications

Where secure communications are needed in remote or rapid deployments.

Enterprise & Commercial

Where mobility, redundancy, or global connectivity are required.

CCIA's Space and Spectrum Policy Center presents several policy recommendations that will help clear the launch of the new era of global connectivity:

1 **Reform the Space Transportation Infrastructure Matching Grants (STIM) program.**

- Reduce the non-federal matching requirement.
- Appropriate \$100 million annually to address the spaceport infrastructure backlog.

2 **Modernize air and space traffic control.**

- Fund more modernization efforts, such as the ones provided in the One Big Beautiful Bill.
- Fully integrate space launch and re-entry operations into air traffic control systems.

3 **Improve coordination between commercial and national security missions at federal ranges.**

- Integrate commercial and national security payload processing schedules.
- Establish a coordination mechanism between commercial and national security operators at federal ranges.

4 **Reform spaceport environmental reviews.**

- Grant authority to a single agency or council to coordinate multi-agency reviews, eliminate duplicative requirements, and ensure collaboration.
- Provide categorical exceptions for repeated, low-impact activities.

5 **Reform launch licensing.**

- Implement the recommendations of the Aerospace Rulemaking Committee (SpARC) report as soon as possible.
- Ensure that application reviews are technically consistent and focused on public safety

6 **Support international partnerships.**

- Reduce export control restrictions for close allies on widely available space technologies.
- Implement license equivalency agreements with foreign regulatory agencies.