

MICHAEL T. McCAUL
10TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

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ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY**

Congress of the United States
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March 18, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

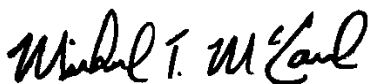
I am requesting funding for Space Autonomy Test and Assurance Initiative (SAT-AI) in fiscal year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station, located at 1111 RELLIS Parkway, Suite 5226, Bryan, Texas, 77807, United States.

The purpose of this funding is to establish a pilot program to develop and demonstrate a national test and certification capability for autonomous spacecraft. The project will create the infrastructure and processes needed to evaluate AI-driven spacecraft systems before launch, with a focus on autonomous flight software that uses advanced methods such as deep reinforcement learning and agentic decision systems. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it builds the capability needed to test, validate, and transition autonomous spacecraft systems for future civil and national space missions.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purpose authorized by section 20102 of title 51, United States Code.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress