

DANA ROHRBACHER
45th District, California

Committees:

SCIENCE

Chairman, Subcommittee on
Space and Aeronautics

Subcommittee on Energy and
Environment

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Subcommittee on
Asia and the Pacific

Subcommittee on International
Economic Policy and Trade



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House of Representatives

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Via Telefax

April 17, 2000

Mr. Federico Paolo Luca Foti
Solar Space Alpha
Alpha Group

Dear Federico:

I am writing to offer my congratulations on the progress you are making regarding the Solar Space Alpha effort. As you know, I have long been a champion of space industrialization generally, and of reducing the high cost of space transportation specifically. With cheap access to space, many exciting possibilities become practical and affordable.

Up until now, the challenge has been to find big enough markets for the cheaper transportation systems to justify the investment required. But you are proposing a huge new customer - space solar power - in parallel with developing Reusable Launch Vehicles. In effect, you are "jump-starting" the market for cheap access on both the Supply and Demand sides.

While I can't speak to the technical or financial specifics of your plan - I'm just a former journalist, after all - it does seem to cut the Gordian knot of large-scale space commercialization. Of course, that's what makes your plan so bold, and so important.

Because I want to encourage many such ventures as yours, I have introduced the "Zero Gravity, Zero Tax Act of 2000." This bill, which is currently being reviewed by the Joint Committee on Taxation, would provide an extended tax holiday on profits and capital gains from qualified commercial space activities. As introduced, the bill would include the construction and resale of solar power satellites in space, and the sale of electric power from space to terrestrial distributors. I have attached a copy of the legislation for your review.

Rhonda and I want to wish you the best of luck on your endeavors. I cannot imagine a greater contribution to humanity's future in space - and on Earth - than achieving the goals you have laid out.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dana Rohrabacher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dana" being more prominent and the last name "Rohrabacher" following in a similar style.

Dana Rohrabacher
Chairman, Space & Aeronautics
Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives