

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON
DEFENSE**

Congressman Greg Landsman (OH-01)

February 25, 2025

Member Day Testimony on Fiscal Year 2026 Defense Appropriations

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2026 Department of Defense (DOD) Appropriations Bill, please consider our request to increase investment in the development of technology to transition an engine – during continual operation – from supersonic afterburning turbojet mode to ramjet mode, enabling seamless operation from standstill to hypersonic speeds. Specifically, we respectfully ask that you allocate **\$10 million under Research, Development, Test and Evaluation-Space Force**, for the development of technology for super and hypersonic airbreathing propulsion for use in attritable/reusable aircraft.

This propulsion technology development will provide DOD orbit access from any runway on the globe capable of supporting the horizontal takeoff of aircraft. The iterative process of producing smaller, attritable/reusable systems fills a requirement for DOD in the near-term for supersonic Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, while continuing to progress toward the requirement of tactically responsive space access for the future. The end-state for the propulsion technology development

uses an air-breathing, hypersonic aircraft 1st stage and liquid-rocket 2nd stage to deliver payloads to orbit – significantly lowering costs while dramatically increasing launch reliability.

Development of this technology will assist DOD in closing the capability gap with near-peer adversaries such as China, and low-cost super/hypersonic propulsion will enable new weapons systems not possible with current technology.

Accordingly, we respectfully ask that you allocate \$10 million for the development of technology for super and hypersonic airbreathing propulsion for use in attritable/reusable aircraft, under Research, Development, Test and Evaluation-Space Force.

Thank you for very much for your consideration of this request.