WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today at a hearing held by the House Armed Services Committee reviewing the Fiscal Year 2012 budget request of the Department of the Air Force, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47) questioned Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff General Norton A. Schwartz regarding plans to sustain the United States' space industrial base.

"The United States relies on its space assets more than ever, and investments in critical technologies must be maintained if we are to continue building a robust and competitive space program," said Rep. Sanchez. "I asked Secretary Donley how the United States can take full advantage of existing commercial space industry resources, such as those in my state of California, to bring cost-effective and cutting-edge research and technology to our existing space enterprise program."