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September 12, 2018

Dear Aerospace and Defense Industry Contractors:

I would like to invite you to the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Long Island Aerospace and Defense Industry Supply Conference at 10:00 am on October 19, 2018 at SUNY Farmingdale.**

Last December, I hosted a conference to bring Long Island's aerospace and defense industry suppliers together with representatives from national prime contractors, such as Northrop Grumman, Boeing and BAE Systems, and to hear from Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Eric Chewning. It was a tremendous success with over 300 participants from over 180 different companies and organizations.

We need to build on the momentum and continue to promote Long Island's aerospace and defense industry. New York's 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District and Long Island boast a rich history of aerospace and defense sector innovation. The industry generates an estimated \$3 billion in economic activity, and perhaps even more, for the Island.

Unlike many other prominent aerospace and defense industry clusters, Long Island cannot boast of any major "monuments" or military installations. As we clearly demonstrated last year, however, our cluster is significant and vibrant. It is critical for us to continue to promote the industry to increase awareness among prime contractors. Long Island companies provide superior products backed by quality craftsmanship and dependable delivery. It is my dream to create a finished product here on Long Island that the general public would recognize – why not a rocket to launch commercial satellites? We built the lunar module here. Let's think big.

In order to remain competitive and foster growth, we must be on the cutting edge. I have invited senior executives from the leading aerospace and defense companies, as well as government officials and industry experts, to help us better understand how our local industry can remain competitive, grow, and prepare for the new challenges ahead. We will advise you of our special guests and panelists as we get closer to the program.

It is imperative that we work together to enhance the "495 Research Corridor on Hi Tech Island" and become, once again, a region that is renowned and valued for our innovation, capabilities and high skilled workforce.

I look forward to seeing you this year and continuing the progress we have made. In the meantime, to confirm your attendance, please email Matt Geller at [Matityahu.Geller@mail.house.gov](mailto:Matityahu.Geller@mail.house.gov) or call 631-923-4104.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas R. Suozzi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'T'.

Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress  
Armed Services Committee