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School of Physical, Environmental
and Mathematical Sciences

14 February 2012

Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Members

Ref: Agreement to extend the Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United States of America concerning the Conduct of Scientific Balloon Flights for Civil Research Purposes

During the Public Hearing of the above Treaty on 6 February 2012, Senator Fawcett referred to Civil Aviation Order 101 Part 54, and procedures required by the implementation of regulations stated in this document. It is important to point out to JSCOT that this document contains regulations governing the conduct of *hot air manned balloon flights*. Hot air balloons are made out of thick material, the balloons are reusable, and are filled with hot air.

All balloon flights that are carried out under the Treaty under discussion are *stratospheric unmanned helium balloon flights*. The balloons are helium filled, carry only scientific instruments and carry no human cargo. The CASA regulations that govern these stratospheric balloon flights are stated in the document Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 101 (1998). These regulations are strictly adhered to for all flights. CASR 101 is being submitted to the JSCOT Secretariat along with other formal documents related to approvals, operation manuals and safety procedures covering these balloon flights that were requested during the Public Hearing.

Yours sincerely

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