The Honorable
David Perdue
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Perdue:

Thank you for your December 16, 2015 letter expressing support for the President’s Export Control Reform (ECR) Initiative. The Initiative is vital to U.S. national security and foreign policy interests. As you note, much progress has been made in advancing ECR to date, with 15 of the 21 U.S. Munitions List Categories revised. We have also made progress toward clarifying and better harmonizing the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) and the Export Administration Regulations (EAR).

The Department is focused on continuing this effort successfully. We are working toward reviewing the remaining USML categories, while beginning to re-review those that were last revised over two years ago. Additionally, our efforts include further work to clarify and harmonize certain definitions in the ITAR and the EAR, which was the subject of a recent proposed rule.

At this time, the Department’s primary focus, as well as that of our interagency partners, is to finalize the significant number of proposed rule-makings currently in process, which include revisions to USML Categories XII and XIV. Nonetheless, the Department is committed to finalizing an initial review of the entire USML in 2016.

We appreciate your interest in this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Julia Frifield
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs