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To Whom It May Concern,

As Director of Conflict Ecology at Oregon State University, I write to strongly endorse Common Space and its vision for an independent, very-high resolution (VHR) satellite mission built around public-interest and humanitarian principles.

Conflict Ecology conducts satellite-based analysis of damage, displacement, and environmental harm in conflict zones including Gaza, Syria, Lebanon, and Ukraine using synthetic aperture radar, optical, and nighttime light data to document war's immediate and long-term impacts. Through collaborations with The New York Times, Washington Post, UNHCR, UNOPS, and the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team, our analyses have informed media coverage, legal inquiry, and field operations across dozens of countries.

Time and again, we face a fundamental constraint: VHR imagery is unavailable where and when we need it most. Commercial tasking priorities and access restrictions routinely create critical gaps during acute crises precisely when evidence matters most for humanitarian response and accountability. This is especially acute for displacement monitoring, where tracking infrastructure destruction, population movement, and camp formation in real time requires consistent coverage that commercial and geopolitical incentives too often deny.

Common Space would directly address this gap. An independent mission structured around open access, ethical governance, and the needs of affected communities represents exactly the infrastructure the humanitarian remote sensing community needs. I encourage funders and technical partners to support its design and deployment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jamon Van Den Hoek".

Jamon Van Den Hoek, PhD
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