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COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY,
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, TERRORISM,
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COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS AND
OVERSIGHT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE AND
AERONAUTICS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
H-309, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Fattah,

I write to you today in anticipation of your committee work on the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. You have a tremendous responsibility to ensure Congress continues to address our nation's \$15 trillion debt and growing deficits, and I hope this letter is helpful to you as the committee addresses the NASA budget this week. Last year I wrote to Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Dicks about my concerns and priorities for our nation's space program. I have included a copy of that letter for your files. There is no doubt that under the constraints of our current economic situation, Congress has no choice but to reduce agency budgets across the board. However, it is important these reductions and the priorities below the top-line make logical and strategic sense.

NASA and the aerospace industry are symbols of pride and honor for our country and represent the best hopes and ideals of our nation and our citizens. The development of space technology and the continued use of human spaceflight in the United States is not only an issue for Florida, but for the entire country. As goes the industrial base for aerospace, so goes our technological capabilities for a high-tech national defense strategy. NASA's future space missions are critical to the continued development of new technologies, as well as our high-tech infrastructure, all of which create and sustain jobs and grow our economy. Below I have detailed my three greatest concerns about the president's budget request.

- **Commercial Crew (CCDEV)** – The request includes \$829.7 million for the Commercial Crew Program. While this request is \$329.7 million over the authorized levels for the program, the prioritization of human space flight within the budget is encouraging. I believe the Commercial Crew Program can continue on schedule under the agreed upon authorized level of \$500 million and I support such an allocation of funds. This level of funding will enable NASA to continue encouraging the private development of safe and affordable space transportation systems to carry American astronauts on American rockets built by an American workforce to and from the International Space Station.
- **Ground Operations Support** - The request includes approximately \$500 million for ground operations infrastructure and the 21st Century Launch Complex (21CLC) at the Kennedy Space Center (KSC). These important expenditures include advances in ground systems support for the Space Launch System (SLS) and Orion (MPCV). This funding is needed for the modernization of the Vehicle Assembly Building, Launch Complex 39, and the Mobile Launcher, which are all critical elements to ensure KSC is prepared when Orion and SLS launch. Additionally, the Space Operations line includes \$41.1 million broken out specifically for 21CLC. This project was authorized by the NASA Authorization Act of 2010, the purpose of which is to develop a multi-user, integrated and cost-efficient spaceport. The Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration line also includes funding for Construction of Facilities at KSC to prepare the center for the coming launch needs of both private entities and the SLS/Orion program. I believe the funding included in this part of NASA’s request is appropriate and will ensure the United States is the world’s leader in launch capability. Certainly, it would not be prudent to have a world-class heavy lift launch system and multiple private companies ready to launch consistently from Florida only to find the infrastructure they need is not ready.
- **Orion Capsule (MPCV)** –The centerpiece of the American deep space exploration program for the future, the SLS/Orion system, is incredibly important to the continued superiority of the United States in space. Just as the development and use of the Space Shuttle has yielded decades of technological advancements, SLS/Orion will yield a similar outcome for our country. In light of this irrefutable fact, I am very concerned with the administration’s decreases in Orion funding in the budget request and would ask the committee continue Congress’s commitment to Orion with the appropriated levels from Fiscal Year 2012 at \$1.2 billion. NASA has continued to claim a launch date for the first test of Orion in 2014; this is a date that must not be compromised by a lack of prioritization at NASA.

In January of 2004 then-President Bush declared, “In the past 30 years, no human being has set foot on another world or ventured farther up into space than 386 miles, roughly the distance from Washington, D.C., to Boston, Massachusetts. America has not developed a new vehicle to advance human exploration in space in nearly a quarter century. It is time for America to take the

next steps.” Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member, I submit to you that now, more than ever, we must have a robust commitment to our human space flight program. We must continue to encourage the development of private space companies, we must continue to develop the SLS and Orion systems to carry humanity deeper into space, and we must continue to demonstrate to the world that our commitment to the last frontier is absolute.

I appreciate you giving me the opportunity to express my thoughts and concerns on appropriations for the NASA budget. I believe the recommendations above will continue to prepare our nation for the next stage of our space program while maintaining the fiscal restraint necessary to be responsible stewards of hard working taxpayers’ money. As the committee begins its work on the NASA portion of the CJS bill, I stand ready to help you make responsible reductions within the overall bill to reflect the need for fiscal discipline in our federal spending. My constituents sent me to Congress to help put people back to work and to get our debt and deficit under control, and I will continue to work with the committee to assist with the proper prioritization of NASA resources while staying within, or below, the overall 302b guidelines. I am confident we can all work together to produce a budget for our space program of which we can all be proud.

Sincerely,



Sandy Adams
Member of Congress