

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 21, 2005

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
Chairman
Subcommittee on Science, State, Commerce, Justice and Related Agencies
H-309, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515-6017

The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Science, State, Commerce, Justice and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515-0004

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Mollohan:

As the conferees begin work on the FY 06 Science, State, Justice and Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we request your consideration of the following funding priorities for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). These provisions will have a direct beneficial effect on the NASA Field Centers, which collectively form the backbone of the world-class work performed at NASA.

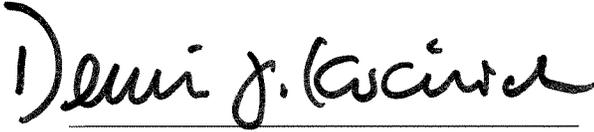
We support the House approved funding levels for aeronautics of \$906 million. The \$47 million that would be lost by using the Senate approved funding level of \$859 million will be critical to maintaining a healthy aeronautics infrastructure. A strong NASA aeronautics program is essential to our national security, aircraft safety, and national economy.

We support a moratorium on reductions in force (RIF) for FY 06. Both the House and the Senate have supported a RIF moratorium until at least 2007 in the authorization bill. However, it appears the conference on these authorization bills will not be completed prior to the passage of the appropriations bill. Therefore, the appropriations bill should reflect the strong support for a RIF moratorium, which allows for the prerequisite crafting and implementation of a national aeronautics policy and a long-term workforce plan.

We support funding for Space Life Science at FY 05 levels. The likely primary cause of mission failure in any long-term mission to the Moon or Mars is human failure (either human error or health crisis) and both human and animal research performed in space is needed to mitigate this risk. Furthermore, research in gravitational biology is not only important for astronaut health and safety, but also for medical breakthroughs on Earth (such as better osteoporosis treatments). If funds cannot be specifically set aside for Space Life Science, we recommend that the committee include report language stating that NASA shall maintain its current level of effort in Space Life Science.

Together, these requests will help keep NASA's field centers strong as they respond to the nation's critical aerospace R&D needs. Without these protections, NASA stands to lose its world-class scientists, engineers, and facilities. These unique in-house capabilities are the reason for NASA's monumental successes and will be critical for mission success in the future.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.



Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress



Steven C. LaTourette
Member of Congress



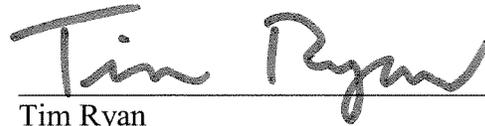
Robert W. Ney
Member of Congress



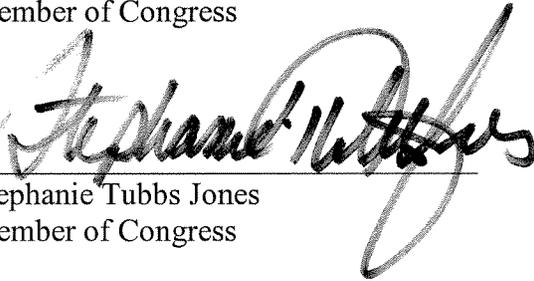
Michael M. Honda
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Stephanie Tubbs Jones
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Marcy Kaptur
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Ted Strickland
Member of Congress



Tammy Baldwin
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Sherrod Brown
Member of Congress



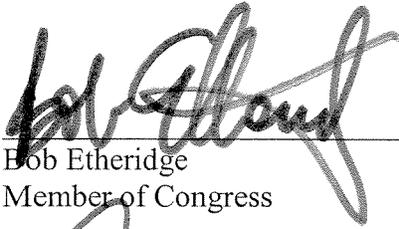
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



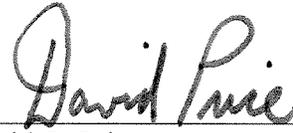
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



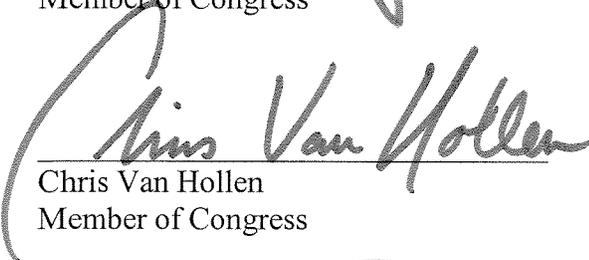
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Bob Etheridge
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Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Tom Lantos
Member of Congress



Michael E. Sodrel
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Ellen O. Tauscher
Member of Congress



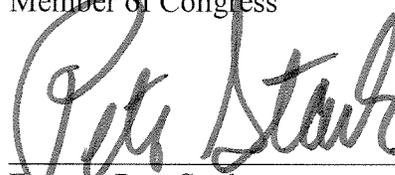
Sheila Jackson-Lee
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Paul E. Gillmor
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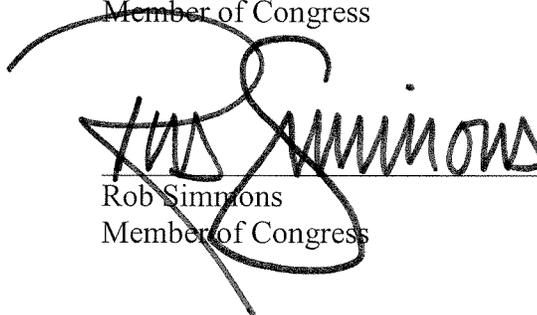
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Barbara Lee
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Rob Simmons
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