

26 May 2011

The Honorable Jacob Lew
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D.C. 20503

The Honorable John Holdren
Director
Office of Science and Technology Policy
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Mr. Lew & Dr. Holdren:

On behalf of over 75,000 Earth scientists worldwide, over 100 research institutions across the United States, the aerospace industry, and numerous manufacturing and service organizations, we write to express our support for the Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS), which is jointly run by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The observations of Earth provided by this system will save lives and help protect property and critical infrastructure. While we understand there are many difficult financial choices still to be made for FY11, we ask that you do whatever is possible to continue the nation's work on this vital satellite system without sacrificing other critical scientific programs.

A delay in JPSS funding will cause a gap in coverage as early as 2016. Our economy, energy sector, environment, and national security interests are all threatened by any delay in the launch of JPSS. We hope that you will work to minimize that delay and close the resulting gap in coverage. As evidenced by events this past winter and spring, weather forecasting is critical to protecting American lives, property, and our economy. Research shows that all sectors of the U.S. economy in all states are weather sensitive. In recent years, the American people, the military, the energy industry, emergency rescue workers, and the private sector, including the transportation industry and farming, have all become more and more reliant on increasingly accurate forecasts up to ten days in advance. JPSS will produce observations that directly support weather forecasting, storm tracking, and long-term monitoring that can save thousands of lives and billions of dollars in commerce and property.

Extreme weather events, such as Sunday's devastating tornado that struck Joplin, Missouri, or the recent eruption of an Icelandic volcano, are prime examples of why polar satellites that enable accurate forecasting and tracking of atmospheric events are important to the American people and our economy. One does not have to look further than the recent flooding on the Mississippi River to see just how costly extreme weather events can be. JPSS will play a critical role in forecasting heavy precipitation events, tornadoes, hurricanes, droughts, and other damaging weather events. Without JPSS, our ability to deliver two to three day advance warning of extreme weather events will be significantly diminished as will our ability to provide weather forecasts farther than five days in advance.

We are all concerned that our ability to help protect the American public and its interests at home and abroad will be greatly diminished if JPSS is delayed. Therefore, we ask that you support this program in FY11.

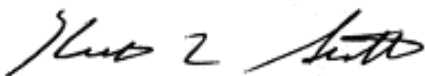
Sincerely,



Christine W. McEntee
Executive Director/CEO
American Geophysical Union



Richard A. Anthes
President
University Corporation for Atmospheric
Research



Keith Seitter
Executive Director
American Meteorological Society



Raymond J. Ban
Co-chair, Weather Coalition
Consultant, Weather and Industry Partnerships
The Weather Channel, Inc.



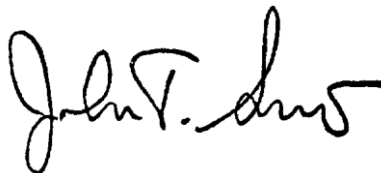
David L. Taylor
President and Chief Executive Officer
Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp.



Pamela G. Emch
Co-chair, Weather Coalition
Senior Staff Engineer
Northrop Grumman Corp.



Chris Young
President
ITT Geospatial Systems



John T. Snow
Co-chair, Weather Coalition
Regents' Professor of Meteorology and Dean
Emeritus, College of Atmospheric and
Geographic Sciences
University of Oklahoma



Lynn Dugle
President
Raytheon Intelligence and Information Systems

Cc: William Daley, Chief of Staff, The White House
Heather Higginbottom, Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget
Gary Locke, Secretary, Department of Commerce
Jane Lubchenco, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration