



December 21, 2015

The Honorable John Culberson
2372 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Honda
1713 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The undersigned organizations, which represent a broad swath of national aerospace, academic, scientific, and public interest communities, write to thank you for your leadership in making the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) one of your highest priorities in drafting the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies division of the FY 2016 omnibus appropriations bill. The bold 7.1 percent increase to NASA's total budget will go a long way toward ensuring the success of ongoing investigations and enabling exciting new missions and research while growing our economy and inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers. Through your support for this innovation ecosystem, NASA is poised to launch humanity and our ever growing knowledge of the universe further than ever before.

This increased funding is also crucial to maintaining our long-standing global leadership in space exploration and scientific discovery, especially at a time when other countries are increasing their commitments to R&D and playing ever-larger roles in space.

We look forward to continuing to work with you moving forward to ensure that America remains the global leader in technology development, aeronautics, space exploration, and scientific discovery.

Sincerely,

Aerospace Industries Association
Aerospace States Association
American Astronautical Society
American Astronomical Society
American Geophysical Union
American Institute of Physics
Association of American Universities
Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Geological Society of America
The Planetary Society
Raytheon Company
SPIE – the international society for optics and photonics
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution