

November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Senate Majority Leader  
S-221 United States Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John A. Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
232 United States Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
S-230 United States Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
House Minority Leader  
204 United States Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Speaker Boehner, and Minority Leaders McConnell and Pelosi,

The undersigned organizations, which represent a broad swath of national aerospace, academic, scientific, and public interest communities, write to urge prompt passage of an FY 2015 omnibus appropriations bill that provides robust and sustainable funding for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

NASA's and NOAA's programs advance humanity's scientific understanding of our planet and the universe, help grow our economy, and contribute to the security of our nation and the safety of its citizens.

NASA has long enjoyed bipartisan and bicameral support, and in this Congress, both the House and the Senate Appropriations Committees have approved an increase in NASA's budget to \$17.9 billion for FY 2015. This modest 1.5 percent increase over FY 2014 appropriations levels will keep ground-breaking new science missions, exciting new technologies, and world-class public and private space transportation systems on track for success, and enable exciting new projects across the agency. Increased funding is crucial to maintaining our long-standing global leadership in space exploration and utilization at a time when other countries are increasing their commitments to innovation and playing ever-larger roles in space. We urge Congress to take a strong step toward securing our position of global leadership by passing an FY 2015 omnibus appropriations bill that includes \$17.9 billion for NASA.

In our 21st century economy, it is more important than ever that NOAA provide the data and insights on our environment that keep Americans safe and prosperous. NOAA's atmospheric and oceanic programs combine cutting-edge research and world-class operational facilities to ensure that the US is a resilient, weather-ready, and sustainable nation. Many sectors of our economy rely on the agency's satellite programs to provide high quality, uninterrupted data for weather forecasts and on its oceanic program for insights on our environment and the sustainability of our coastal economies. We urge Congress to pass an FY 2015 omnibus appropriations bill that enables NOAA's important mission by providing the Senate Appropriations Committee approved level of \$5.42 billion for NOAA.

We believe that both agencies require balanced and robustly funded portfolios to accomplish their important missions and thereby strengthen our nation. **We urge Congress to make these agencies a**

**priority now and in the future, beginning with passage of an FY 2015 omnibus appropriations bill this year that provides \$17.9 billion for NASA and \$5.42 billion for NOAA.**

We thank you for your leadership on these issues and look forward to working with you to strengthen NASA and NOAA.

Sincerely,

Aerospace Industries Association  
Aerospace States Association  
American Astronomical Society  
American Geophysical Union  
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
The Planetary Society  
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research