

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

November 24, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chairman
Senate Commerce, Justice, Science, and
related agencies Subcommittee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Ranking Member
Senate Commerce, Justice, Science, and
related agencies Subcommittee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
House Commerce, Justice, Science, and
related agencies Subcommittee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Grace Meng
Ranking Member
House Commerce, Justice, Science, and
related agencies Subcommittee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Collins, Moran, Cole and Rogers and Ranking Members Murray, Van Hollen, DeLauro and Meng,

We write to thank your Committees for their continued bipartisan commitment to advancing American leadership in space science and exploration. The uncertainty surrounding the future of our national science programs dedicated to advancing the frontiers of knowledge, discovery, and innovation has now given way to renewed congressional support that ensures America continues to reach higher, explore further, and achieve more. **Now, it is on Congress to finish the job.**

In the full-year Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations that you will soon be considering, **we, the undersigned, urge you to enact compromise language that funds NASA's Science Mission Directorate (SMD) and Office of STEM Engagement, along with the National Science Foundation (NSF), at the levels proposed by the Senate Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations bill.** This functional, flat budget should also be paired

with the language in the House CJS Appropriations bill that ensures that “not less than” the appropriated amount is spent on NASA SMD’s five science divisions: Planetary Science, Astrophysics, Earth Science, Heliophysics, and Biological & Physical Sciences. These funding levels will reaffirm America’s leadership in science, secure our economic future, and inspire generations to come.

For more than six decades, Congress has recognized that investments in fundamental science are down payments on the technologies, businesses, and common knowledge of the future. The returns are evident across our nation: never-before-accomplished technical feats give rise to whole new industries, research on the International Space Station leads to medical breakthroughs, and discoveries about other worlds fuel the imaginations of tomorrow’s explorers. Every dollar invested in NASA and NSF produces direct economic benefits, yielding a return three times greater than the taxpayer’s contribution. These are among the most cost-effective federal investments we can make, supporting more than 300,000 high-skill jobs and driving over \$75 billion in economic activity each year.

Yet the benefits of science cannot be measured only in dollars. They are reflected in the security of our constituents and infrastructure, protected by satellites that track storms, monitor wildfires, and warn of solar activity that could disrupt communications and defense systems. They are reflected in the resilience of our communities, equipped with data that guide water management, urban planning, and disaster recovery. And they are reflected in the competitiveness of our economy, where federally funded research provides the foundation for innovation that private enterprise alone cannot support.

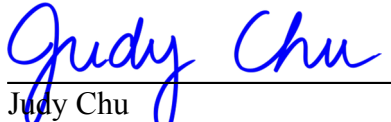
These investments also shape America’s future workforce. NASA’s Research & Analysis programs, Space Grants and STEM engagement programs, and NSF’s competitive research programs provide students in every state with opportunities to learn and make discoveries. These programs connect classrooms to cutting-edge science and research, building a pipeline of talent that sustains our space workforce and ensures that America remains the world’s leader in aerospace, advanced technology, and scientific research. Every fellowship, grant, and outreach initiative is an investment in American leadership in the 21st Century.

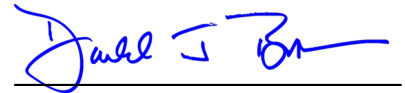
Congress has already acted in a bipartisan way to advance appropriations bills that sustain investments in scientific preeminence. **The path forward is clear: enact the Senate’s proposed funding levels for NASA SMD, the NASA Office of STEM Engagement, and NSF, and pair it with the House CJS bill’s requirement that no less than enacted levels are directed to each science division.** Doing so will protect ongoing research, secure America’s economic and national security interests, and guarantee that the benefits of science continue to flow to every community in the United States.

We thank you for your leadership and for your commitment to maintaining America’s role as the global leader in discovery and innovation. We stand ready to work with you to ensure that these

investments continue to deliver for taxpayers, strengthen our nation, and inspire generations to come.

Sincerely,


Judy Chu
Member of Congress


Don Bacon
Member of Congress


Wesley Bell
Member of Congress


Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

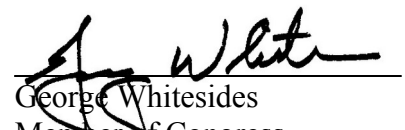

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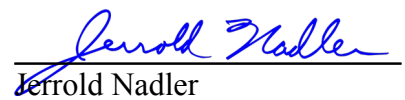

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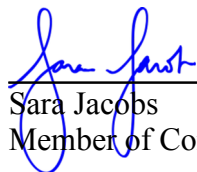

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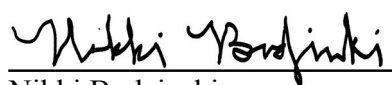
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April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



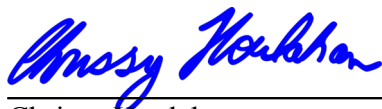
Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



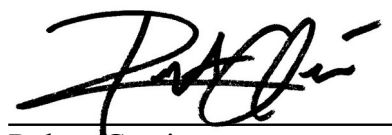
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Member of Congress



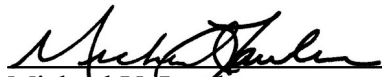
Robert Garcia
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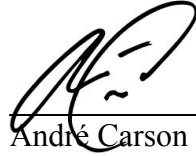
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Michael V. Lawler
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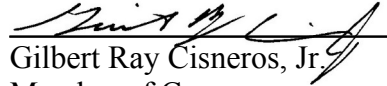
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