

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 13, 2012

The Honorable Charles F. Bolden, Jr.
Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
300 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20546

The Honorable Jeffrey D. Zients
Acting Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Administrator Bolden and Director Zients;

As you know, Congress is likely to approve a six-month Continuing Resolution for the first half of FY 2013. We are writing today to urge your support for maintaining the current FY 2012 appropriated levels of funding and rate of spending for NASA's human space exploration program while operating under this Continuing Resolution. Unfortunately, we have received indications that efforts are underway within NASA and OMB to reduce or slow down the rate of spending for the Orion crew vehicle and Space Launch System below their FY 2012 appropriated funding levels.

This would be a major mistake. We believe Orion and SLS are the cornerstones of our nation's human space exploration enterprise, a source of national pride. We want to ensure America continues to be the leader in space exploration, and these programs remain on track. Congress has consistently shown strong bipartisan support for Orion and SLS, as reflected in NASA authorization and appropriations laws over the past several years. Last July, NASA's independent safety advisory panel praised the "considerable progress" being made by NASA and its industry teams on the Orion and SLS programs over the past several years, including delivery of the Orion capsule to Kennedy Space Center for its maiden spaceflight test in 2014.

If NASA and OMB reduces or slows down the rate of spending for six months under the Continuing Resolution, you will be delaying and jeopardizing work on this critical flight test in 2014 as well as the first integrated Orion-SLS flight demonstration in 2017. Reduced funding impacts our aerospace workforce and creates instability for subcontractors and suppliers.

America needs to lead on the frontiers of space. We strongly urge you to keep the Orion and SLS programs on track for test flights in 2014 and 2017 by maintaining funding levels for those programs at FY 2012 appropriated levels under the Continuing Resolution.

Thank you for your attention on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress

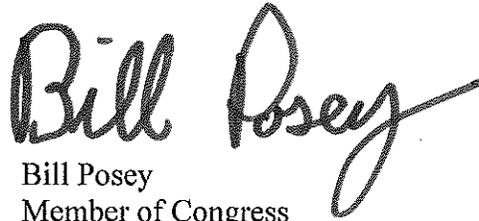


Lamar Smith
Member of Congress

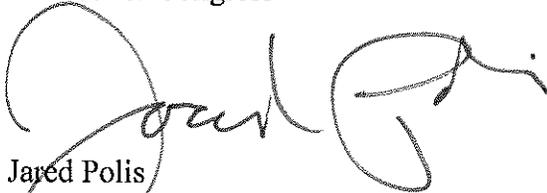
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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



Pete Olson
Member of Congress



Gene Green
Member of Congress



Michael Coffman
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



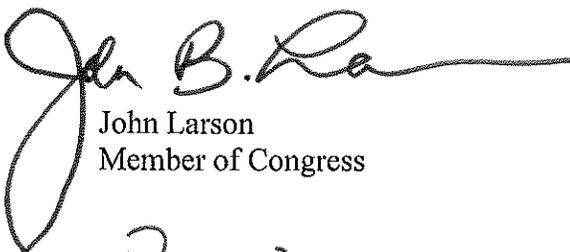
Sandy Adams
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
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Cory Gardner
Member of Congress



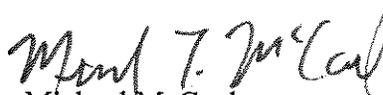
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Member of Congress



Scott Tipton
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress



Michael McCaul
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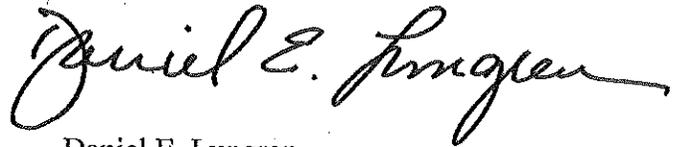
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Member of Congress



Rob Bishop
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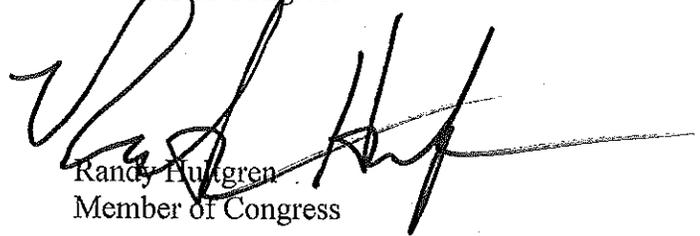
Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress



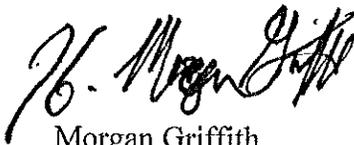
Daniel E. Lungren
Member of Congress



Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress



Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress



Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Robert Scott
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Hal Rogers, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Norm Dicks, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Frank Wolf, Chairman, Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
Appropriations Subcommittee
The Honorable Chaka Fattah, Ranking Member, Commerce, Justice, Science and Related
Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee
The Honorable John Holdren, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy