

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 24, 2007

The Honorable David R. Obey
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-218, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Lewis:

As you begin writing the Continuing Resolution for the remainder of fiscal year 2007, we respectfully ask that you consider adjusting the funding level for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The tragedy of the Columbia accident, along with the damage incurred to NASA facilities during the 2005 hurricane season has placed an unexpected strain on NASA's budget. Maintaining the FY07 funding at FY06 levels will further limit America's ability to preserve our competitive edge over foreign space agencies such as China, India, Russia and the European Union.


You may remember that after the Challenger accident in 1987, Congress provided \$2.7 billion in emergency funding for safety improvements and construction costs of a new shuttle vehicle. However, recovery funds were not made available after the Columbia accident, forcing NASA to cut critical science, aeronautics and exploration programs.

The cuts in science, aeronautics and exploration have left our space program unbalanced, preventing NASA from sponsoring important missions and research recommended by the science community, which are needed to enhance the space flight program. With China doubling its investment in research over the next fifteen years to increase its national strength, our ability to compete globally in science, technology and innovation will suffer.


Furthermore, continuing at the current rate of funding will also impede our ability to sustain the Shuttle through 2010, fulfill our assembly commitments at the International Space Station, and develop a vehicle to replace the Shuttle by 2014. Level funding could extend the length of time when the United States is grounded from space flight, thus risking our leadership in space exploration and increasing our vulnerability to national security threats.

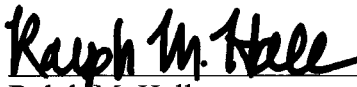
It is critical that the Committee considers funding NASA at least at its FY2007 budget request to sustain our Space Shuttle program, to continue development of the CEV and CLV, and to reimburse science, aeronautics and exploration programs that were cut to pay for the recovery of and safety improvements to our space program.

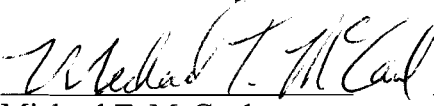
Thank you for your consideration of this request.



John Culberson
Member of Congress

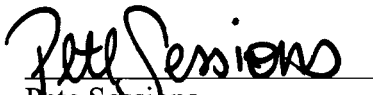

Nick Lampson
Member of Congress

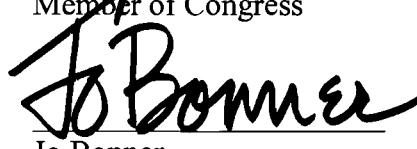

Robert E. "Bud" Cramer, Jr.
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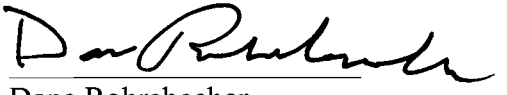

Ralph M. Hall
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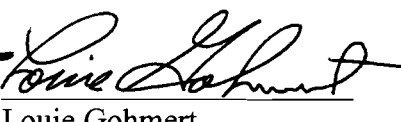

Ron Paul
Member of Congress

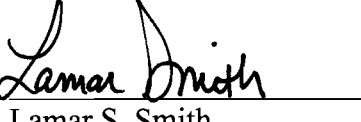

Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

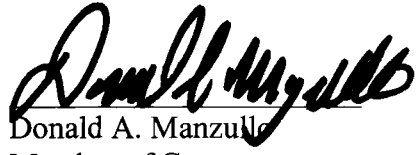

Jo Bonner
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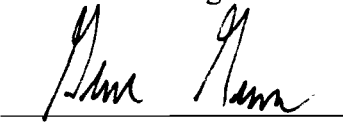

Dana Rohrabacher
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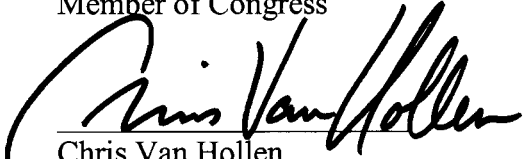

Rob Bishop
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Donald A. Manzullo
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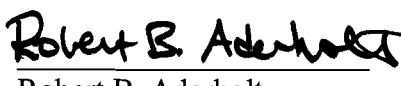

Gene Green
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Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress


Lincoln Davis
Member of Congress

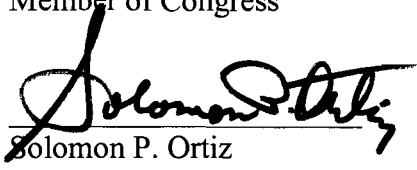

Sheila Jackson-Lee
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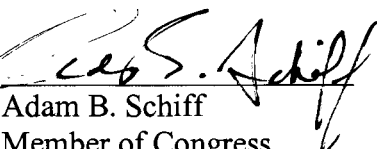

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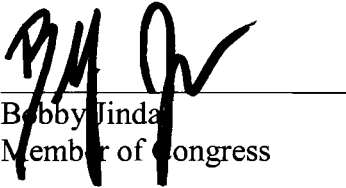
Ted Poe
Member of Congress



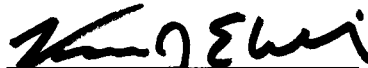
Rodney Alexander
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Jane Harman
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Bobby Jindal
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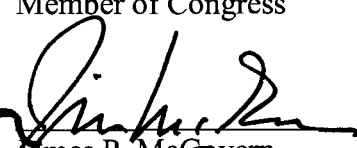
David Wu
Member of Congress



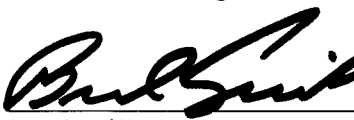
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Charlie Melancon
Member of Congress



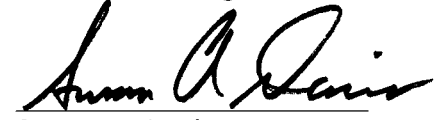
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Member of Congress



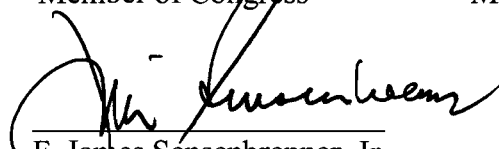
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Member of Congress



Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress



F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Member of Congress