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Congress of the United States
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CHAIRMAN,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC POLICY

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

June 4, 2009

Dr. Woodrow Whitlow, Jr.
Director, NASA Glenn Research Center
21000 Brookpark Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44135-3191

Dear Dr. Whitlow:

I strongly oppose closing the Visitor Center at the NASA Glenn Research Center.

Since 1976, the NASA Glenn Visitor Center has served as an integral part of educating the public on the mission and accomplishments of NASA. Its exhibits provide engaging, hands-on ways to experience both historic and continuing advancements in the areas of aeronautics and space exploration. Nearly 100,000 individuals visit the NASA Glenn Visitor Center annually without charge. Many of them visit through school field trips and extracurricular involvement. My constituents and all Americans should continue to have the opportunity to see the ways in which NASA tax dollars are spent.

At the same time, the need for a public face for NASA is increasing. NASA is currently facing the loss of legions of talented scientists, engineers and technicians to retirement. At the same time, our nation is faced with increased global competition for the same expertise. As a member of the Education and Labor Committee, I firmly believe that it is in the best interest of Northeast Ohio and the nation to cultivate a new generation of interest in the work that NASA does.

I stand ready to work with you to do whatever it takes to keep the NASA Glenn Visitor Center successful and accessible. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff if we can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress