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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

March 20, 2012

The Honorable Frank Wolf
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science
H-309, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
and Science
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Fattah:

As your Subcommittee works to craft the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2013, we urge your subcommittee to provide the \$916.3 million for the Joint Polar Satellite System, as requested by the President. This funding will ensure development of this groundbreaking weather satellite system is completed on time and provide advanced weather forecasting for the world sooner.

The Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS) under NOAA is the next generation weather satellite system. Once online, JPSS will provide Americans with the most sophisticated weather prediction capabilities ever produced. The satellites will measure climate, weather, and environmental data which JPSS will have functionality far greater than legacy programs. The collection and analysis of this new data will increase the National Weather Service's ability to predict weather patterns early and accurately. The designers of JPSS believe it will provide advanced warning perhaps five days earlier than legacy weather satellites. Last year was a landmark year for JPSS with the launch of the Suomi National Polar-Orbiting Partnership, a satellite designed to bridge the gap until JPSS comes online. Suomi's performance thus far has been remarkable and underscores the need to fully fund JPSS development. Full funding in FY 13 is necessary to minimize any possible gap in weather coverage between Suomi and JPSS.

Nearly every sector of our economy will benefit from improved weather forecasting. Emergency management officials can better locate evacuations. The transportation industry will be able to reroute shipment to avoid severe weather. American farmers will adjust their schedules. Fishing vessels will avoid dangerous waters. Our armed forces will schedule major operations for the optimal weather conditions. Every American has a stake in the timely completion of JPSS.

Sadly, 2011 was the most costly year in terms of economic impact of natural disasters in world history. The United States declared a record 99 major disasters with an aggregate cost of \$52 billion. Natural disasters also took the lives of hundreds of Americans. Already, 2012 has been deadly year as well, with tornadoes throughout the nation causing serious damage. This destruction and loss of life is tragic. The wisest investment our nation can make to mitigate the financial and human costs of natural disasters is to develop weather satellites which can better predict and locate severe weather. JPSS is the premier

The timely completion of JPSS will help ensure the safety of our communities from the threat of natural disasters and do so in the most cost-effective way. Investments in JPSS will yield tremendous savings to other federal agencies and other economic costs. I urge you to recognize the benefits JPSS has to our

public safety, transportation sector, energy production, and taxpayer savings and fund this critical program at the President's requested level of \$916.3 million.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Perlmutter', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress