COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND
RELATED AGENCIES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY

ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN WHIP

JOHN CULBERSON
7TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
428 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4307
202.225.2571
FAX 202.225.4381

DISTRICT OFFICE:
10000 MEMORIAL DRIVE, SUITE 620
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77024-3490
713.682.8828
FAX: 713.680.8070

INTERNET:
WWW.CULBERSON.HOUSE.GOV

March 16, 2006

The Honorable Frank Wolf
Chairman, Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and
Related Agencies Subcommittee on Appropriations
H-309, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Alan Mollohan
Ranking Member, Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and
Related Agencies Subcommittee on Appropriations
H-309, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Mollohan,

I respectfully submit the following requests for funding from the Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Subcommittee on Appropriations.

I want to express my deep concern for the paltry funding for the sciences in the FY2007 NASA budget. Therefore, my top priority is $30 million for a new start for a Europa orbiter/lander(s) mission. NASA ignored the Committee's FY2006 directive to start planning for this mission, so I have submitted report language reiterating the Committee's support for Europa and providing NASA with the necessary funding to start this mission right away. I have already begun pushing for a larger allocation for this subcommittee, and I am committed to finding the resources to fund this mission.

My second highest request is $10 million for the Texas Border Sheriffs' Coalition. In FY06 this subcommittee provided $5 million for the border sheriffs to pay overtime, hire additional deputies, and purchase equipment. There has been an increase in violence and drug and human trafficking along the Texas-Mexico border and this request will provide the sheriffs with additional resources to combat these problems. Local law enforcement in counties along the border is severely undermanned, and since many of these counties are poor, they do not have the tax base to increase manpower. Additional federal assistance is needed to protect the citizens of these counties and to stop human and drug traffic before it reaches the larger cities in Texas.

My third highest priority is $15 million for the Texas Governor's Office of Homeland Security to support Operation Rio Grande. Operation Rio Grande is designed to address escalating violence

along the Texas-Mexico border. This is a state initiative run by the governor to coordinate state and local resources to detect, track, and deter criminal activity along the border area from Brownsville to El Paso. This request will provide funding for overtime, additional law enforcement personnel, and equipment.

My fourth highest request is $5 million for the City of Houston's Violent Criminal Gang Initiative. The Houston area has experienced significant increases in gang related activity including violent crime, cargo and auto theft, narcotics and human trafficking, and money laundering. The Violent Criminal Gangs Initiative will utilize a coordinated multi-agency team approach to collaborate with law enforcement in other states to gather intelligence prosecute gang members under federal law.

If you have any questions, please contact Ellie Essalih at 6-9172.

Thank you for your consideration of my requests.

Sincerely,

John

John Culberson
Member of Congress