

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2010

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. President,

We write to you today as proud members of the Texas Congressional delegation with our concerns regarding your FY11 budget proposal which cancels NASA's Constellation program.

Terminating this program risks our hard earned place as the global leader in human space flight. We have invested \$9 billion dollars into this system and to propose a change of this magnitude, and in favor of commercial crew flights by companies who have yet to demonstrate the ability to even fly cargo, is a risk not worth taking.

We are very supportive of and willing to work with you on an issue that is a great need for our nation: inspiring students and young professionals to study and pursue careers in the STEM fields. Yet we risk undercutting one of the greatest inspirations and examples to them about the value of such an education. The dream of becoming an astronaut has been one pursued by millions of kids over the past decades. Although they didn't all make it, the pursuit enabled them to be scientists or engineers or teachers.

We are writing to you as Texans, but not only as Texans. Although the economic impact of this decision is devastating to our state, it is not limited to us- nor does it just affect aerospace companies- but impacts the entire nation and numerous industries. In Houston, the second, third, and fourth line businesses, many of them small and disadvantaged businesses, will be drastically harmed as well.

You have often told the story of sitting on your grandfather's shoulders to watch the Apollo astronauts following splash down from their journeys to the moon. Mr. President, if this budget proposal is implemented, when we put our grandchildren on our shoulders there won't be anything for them to see.

Two Congresses endorsed the current plan in the 2005 and 2008 NASA Authorization Acts. It was the right course then, and the right course now. We look forward to working with you to stay on that course that maintains America's leadership in human space flight.

Very respectfully,





Ralph M. Hall

Michael M. Zand

Kay Jensen

Ann M. TX-2

John Culberson TEXAS 7

Charles A. Jones

Mike Pugh TX-26

Eddie Bernice Johnson #30

Ciro D. Rodriguez

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John Carter TX-23

Mr. T. U. TX-13

H. H. TX-11

Keith Spring TX-8

Lamar Smith, TX-12

Bruce Essing TX-32

Le Boston

Theresa Jackson Lee

John L. D.

Ruben Hingosa

Ron Paul

Eric Schmitt TX-1

By Allen

Kenny Marshall