

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 14, 2012

Dear Administrator Bolden:

Your response to the October 13th letter sent by me and 40 of my House colleagues raises far more questions than it answers. In your response, you assert that the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum originally proposed "a new museum either on the pier, on a barge, or on land adjacent to the museum." This contradicts all public statements made by Intrepid Museum officials in the months leading up to the shuttle location announcement on April 12, 2011. On multiple occasions, Intrepid Museum officials described plans to house the shuttle in a glass enclosure either on the Intrepid itself or on the adjacent pier. There was never any mention of a plan to display the shuttle in a facility that must be constructed on an empty parking lot across the street on property the Intrepid Museum does not currently own.

American taxpayers funded every aspect of the Shuttle Program and they deserve full transparency and accountability with respect to how the Orbiters will be cared for. We hereby request that you provide us with a copy of the Intrepid Museum's original design proposal, un-redacted, as submitted to NASA.

Furthermore, in your response to our letter, you refer to an April 2011 meeting NASA held at Kennedy Space Center with representatives of each Orbiter recipient museum regarding drafts of their display concepts and exhibit engineering concepts. We request all of the minutes of that three-day meeting. This includes the referenced "logistics plans, exhibit plans and finance plans" for the Intrepid Museum's acquisition of the *Enterprise*. NASA's decision on which entities would host the Orbiters was made prior to April 2011 (as confirmed in the NASA IG report *Review of NASA's Selection of Display Locations for the Space Shuttle Orbiters*). There is no reason why these minutes should not be shared with Congress and the public.

Your response outlines the process for transporting the *Enterprise* from Washington Dulles International Airport to the deck of the *USS Intrepid* at the Intrepid Museum, with a pit stop at John F. Kennedy (JFK) International Airport. Upon completion of the Intrepid Museum's new structure to house the *Enterprise* (which is currently several years away), the Orbiter must be moved again. The taxpayers have a right to know if NASA has determined that moving the *Enterprise* a total of three times will do any significant and irreparable structural damage to the Orbiter.

As you are aware, Congress recently passed an appropriations bill to fund NASA that also included a provision directing NASA to provide quarterly updates to Congress on the progress of the shuttle disposition. We are particularly focused on NASA's outlook on the Intrepid Museum's fundraising and construction efforts for the new display structure they plan to build, as well as details for the actual transport of the *Enterprise* to the Intrepid Museum.

The American taxpayers paid for 100% of the Space Shuttle development, production, and operating costs; the public has a right to know how all decisions affecting shuttle placement were made. NASA has a duty to provide full disclosure to the public when it comes to spending taxpayer money. Congress, as well as the American public, deserves to know the answers to the above questions before any further action is taken with respect to locating *Enterprise* at the Intrepid Museum.

Very respectfully,



Pete Olson (TX-22)  
Member of Congress



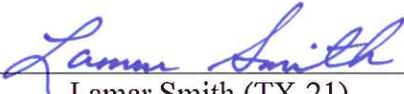
Steven M. Palazzo (MS-04)  
Member of Congress



Steve Austria (OH-07)  
Member of Congress



Jason Chaffetz (UT-03)  
Member of Congress



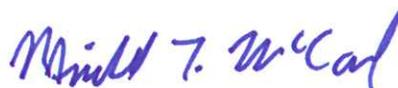
Lamar Smith (TX-21)  
Member of Congress



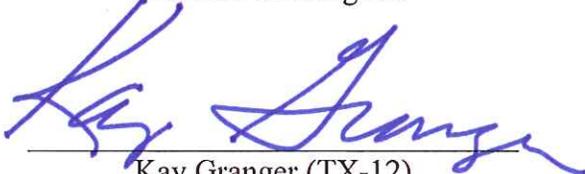
Louis Gohmert (TX-01)  
Member of Congress



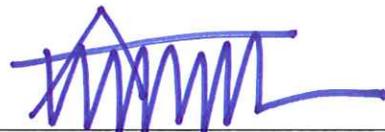
John Abney Culberson (TX-07)  
Member of Congress



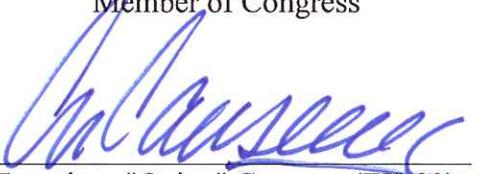
Michael T. McCaul (TX-10)  
Member of Congress



Kay Granger (TX-12)  
Member of Congress



Ted Poe (TX-02)  
Member of Congress



Francisco "Quico" Canseco (TX-23)  
Member of Congress



Kevin Brady (TX-08)  
Member of Congress