



Office of the Chancellor
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

April 17, 2018

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chair
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith:

Thank you for your leadership in bringing H.R. 5503, the NASA Reauthorization Bill for 2018 and 2019, before the full committee for deliberation. The bill's record high authorization numbers in critical areas such as science, aeronautics, and human exploration are a testament to the committee's desire to keep our nation at the forefront of technology and innovation for the future.

As the Chairman well knows, Texas is a leader in space exploration. From human spaceflight to aeronautics, our state boasts strong industries and universities committed to near and long-term solutions to challenging problems. The Texas A&M University System is proud to have world-renowned expertise in human spaceflight research, hypersonics, and unmanned aerial vehicles. Indeed, Texas A&M has been actively involved with human spaceflight research from robotics, to human performance to agriculture. Further, Texas A&M is home to one of five NASA university leadership initiatives where we are performing research to design commercial supersonic aircraft that can modify their shape during a flight to help minimize noise from sonic booms. Texas A&M – Corpus Christi hosts one of the six FAA unmanned aircraft system (UAS) test sites and has been working with NASA on UAS research for many years. We are pleased that the committee recognizes the importance of these areas by prioritizing research in human space exploration, increasing the aeronautics budget, including \$30 million for hypersonics research, and authorizing programs in UAS research.

Texas A&M is also a Space Grant College, and we are committed to training the next generation of students for careers in the growing aerospace field. We appreciate that the committee funds the NASA Education account at \$100 million and includes full funding for the Space Grant program. Keeping this state-based program funded is important to ensuring that all students nationwide have access to quality STEM initiatives and are prepared for the jobs of tomorrow.

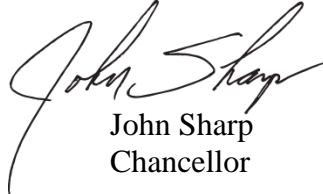
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Thank you again for keeping our space program as a top priority for the committee and Congress. It is critical that we continue to support the agency, as well as commercial ventures, to keep our state and nation in the lead worldwide.

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John Sharp
Chancellor

cc: Mr. Scott Sudduth, Esq.
Associate Vice Chancellor and Director, Federal Relations