



April 28, 2015

Chris Shank
Policy Director
Science, Space, and Technology Committee
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chris,

As Congress moves forward with consideration of NASA's FY2016 budget, Citizens for Space Exploration – TX welcomes the strong endorsement of America's space exploration program by the House Science, Space & Technology Committee as reflected in its proposed FY2016-2017 NASA Authorization Bill. Citizens has consistently promoted US leadership in space exploration building upon the fundamental elements of the 2010 NASA Authorization Act to include the Orion spacecraft, Space Launch System rocket, the International Space Station, and Commercial Cargo/Crews programs. We believe that US leadership in space exploration is important to our nation's global national security interests, technological innovation and competitiveness, high-tech jobs and future workforce opportunities, STEM education and quality of life improvements ranging from health care, to the environment, to transportation systems and beyond. We urge that a high priority be placed on funding required to move America beyond low Earth orbit into deep space exploration as expeditiously as possible, with the ultimate goal of sending human missions to Mars.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Mitchell", written in a cursive style.

Bob Mitchell, President