

NSGA

National Space Grant Alliance

April 17, 2018

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

Dear Chairman Smith,

On behalf of the National Space Grant Alliance, I want to thank the Chairman for including a reauthorization of the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program in H.R. 5503, the NASA Reauthorization Bill for 2018 and 2019. We would also like to state our support as well for the reauthorization of NASA's Office of Education and the broad programs that are funded through that office.

Space Grant is a competitive, state-federal partnership that functions through consortia in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia. The program enables students to engage in outreach activities and research projects that prepare them for STEM careers. Space Grant consortia are effective catalysts in each state to help grow a high-tech workforce. With over 800 partner institutions, this program promotes aerospace and other NASA relevant STEM education activities, and helps sustain a pipeline of students for innovative, high-tech jobs. For every dollar that NASA provides, Space Grant consortia contribute on average an equal or greater amount from non-federal sources to maximize resources available to students in their states. Because this is a federal-state partnership, the Space Grant program not only addresses national needs, but has proven to be very effective at fulfilling state and regional STEM goals—NASA program data shows that, of all participating students graduating in a particular year, over 80% move on to either a STEM job in industry, NASA, academia, or they enroll in a STEM graduate program.

Thank you again for your leadership in supporting NASA's Office of Education and the Space Grant Program. We look forward to working with you and the committee to ensure that STEM education continues to be a priority for our nation.

Sincerely,



John B. Kosmatka, Ph.D., P.E
Chair, National Space Grant Alliance
Director, California Space Grant Consortium
Professor and Callaway Golf Chair of Structural Mechanics
University of California, San Diego
e-mail: jkosmatka@ucsd.edu Phone: (858) 534-1779