

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

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June 14, 2021

Chairman Adam Smith
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith:

I am requesting authorization for attendance at the June 17th Member-only briefing by the Office of Naval Intelligence's Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon Task Force for the House Armed Services Committee, Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations. The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology that I serve as Ranking Member of has oversight over civil aviation and aeronautical research and development at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).¹ Fundamental scientific and aeronautical research is germane to understanding unidentified aerial phenomena.

This briefing is important to informing our Committee's role of overseeing NASA and FAA research and development on civil aviation and aeronautical research, and any related atmospheric, aeronautical, or space science investigations pertaining to unidentified aerial phenomena. In addition, based on reports in the media, NASA Administrator Senator Bill Nelson plans to engage agency experts in scientific and technical research related to understanding unidentified aerial phenomena. An online publication, space.com, reported on Administrator Nelson's interview with CNN, "Now that I'm here at NASA, I've turned to our scientists and I've said, 'Would you, looking at it from a scientific standpoint, see if you can determine [what these objects are], so that we can have a better idea?'" [Nelson told CNN's Rachel Crane](#) in an interview that the network posted online Friday (June 4)."²

¹ Pursuant to Rule X of the U.S House of Representatives, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology is delegated oversight jurisdiction over all laws, programs, and Government activities relating to nonmilitary research and development.

² <https://www.space.com/nasa-investigating-ufos-bill-nelson>

Please contact Mr. Josh Mathis, the minority Staff Director of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology or Mr. Tom Hammond of the minority Committee staff with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank Lucas". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "F" and "L".

Frank Lucas
Ranking Member

CC: Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chairwoman

Rep. Mike Rogers
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services