



April 16, 2018

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman, Committee on Science,
Space and Technology
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Ranking Member, Committee on Science,
Space and Technology
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Johnson,

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership supports the efforts of Congressman Babin to further America's human spaceflight program through the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2018. The Congressman has recognized the roles of the International Space Station in the development of NASA's deep space exploration program and in the development of commercial space. We support the continued NASA operation of the International Space Station beyond 2024 allowing for a sensible transition of operation to commercial entities, based on the development of capabilities by commercial operators. This approach to the utilization of the International Space Station will ensure America's continued leadership and presence in space.

Rep. Babin has also recognized the unique capabilities and expertise of the Johnson Space Center to lead the development of human operations beyond low earth orbit. We support the utilization of these capabilities to reestablish Johnson Space Center as the lead center for the development and integration of facilities, launch vehicles and equipment related to human space flight. The leadership and management of the Johnson Space Center will provide assurance for the safety and schedule for deep space exploration programs.

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership will continue to advocate NASA's human spaceflight program, driven by a desire to maintain America's leadership in space exploration. We encourage the efficient utilization of NASA's investments in the International Space Station, Commercial Crew and Resupply, the Space Launch System, Orion and NextSTEP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Mitchell".

Bob Mitchell
President, Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership