



April 16, 2018

Chairman Lamar Smith
House Science Committee
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson
House Science Committee
394 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Johnson,

Moon Express writes to express our support for H.R. 5503, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2018.

We greatly appreciate the committee authorizing full funding for the two new lunar exploration programs proposed in NASA's 2019 Budget, the Lunar Discovery and Exploration Program within NASA's Science Mission Directorate and the Advanced Cislunar and Surface Capabilities program within NASA's Advanced Exploration Systems program. This combined Lunar Exploration Campaign will ensure that America leads in exploration of our nearest celestial neighbor.

The Lunar Discovery and Exploration Program (LDEP) will prepare NASA for future human landings and entrepreneurial activity by funding the development of scientific and technology payloads and their deployment to lunar orbit and the lunar surface. By leveraging commercial launchers, landers, and platforms, NASA will be able to explore the Moon, including conducting the lunar science missions identified in the Planetary Science Decadal, far more quickly and cost-effectively than if the agency was planning a more traditional exploration strategy.

The Advanced Cislunar and Surface Capabilities program (ACSC) will develop commercial lunar lander capabilities for exploration and utilization of our nearest neighbor. The capabilities will support LDEP and enable the agency to undertake the Administration's planned series of lunar missions much more quickly and cost-effectively than if it was to develop such technologies in-house using traditional procurement methods.

Moon Express also applauds the committee for its foresight in including language which mandates that, to the greatest extent practicable, NASA prioritize acquisition of space products through commercial providers or through public-private partnerships with commercial providers. This language, if adopted, would set the stage for the continued



growth and expansion of the commercial space industry, and would incentivize further investments in innovation and the development of space capabilities that will benefit all Americans.

For these reasons, Moon Express requests that the committee approve H.R. 5503.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Richards', written in a cursive style.

Robert (Bob) Richards
Founder & CEO