

**Opening Statement**  
**The Honorable Pete Olson (R-TX), Ranking Member**  
Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics  
Joint Hearing with Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight  
*Independent Audit of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration*

*Thursday December 3, 2009*

I'd like to thank the Chairs, Reps. Giffords and Miller, and Ranking Member Broun for holding this important hearing today. Thank you to the witnesses for taking the time to be here, and may I offer a welcome particularly to Mr. Martin and Ms. Robinson. You have extremely critical positions at NASA and I wish you the best in your new posts. I hope you know you have folks on this committee and in this Congress who stand willing to help make sure the agency is on the right track to achieve the worthy missions it has and will undertake.

Along those lines, I'd like to say in regard to this hearing today that the efforts performed to get NASA's financial house in order are seeing fruit, and the team should be commended for the hard work it has done to get us where we are today. I'd like to recognize the work of Ron Spoehel and thank him for his service at NASA as CFO at this time as well.

I am a strong proponent of giving NASA the resources it needs to achieve its goals. While the agency is in desperate need for funds, we cannot, and frankly should not, advocate for increased taxpayer money if those already entrusted to it aren't spent wisely, efficiently, and correctly. An agency that is not adequately accountable of government resources should not be entrusted with more of them. That is why what we are here talking about is important under any circumstance, but particularly at this time in the Agency's history.

Thank you for what you have done, and what we will do together on behalf of our nation's space program.