



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives ■ Washington, DC 20515**

April 18, 2007

Chairman Alan B. Mollohan  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-310, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Frelinghuysen:

In addition to the programs I asked you to support in my letter on March 16, 2007, I would like to request \$4.423 billion for NASA Exploration Systems. This would be a \$500 million increase over the President's request for FY08. As you may know, the Administration did not factor in the over \$500 million in cuts to NASA Exploration Systems in the FY07 Continuing Resolution when he submitted his FY08 budget to Congress. Therefore, the FY08 budget request of \$3.923 billion assumed full funding of the FY07 request. NASA officials have also told members of Congress that it would take a \$500 million increase to the FY08 request to make NASA whole.

If this increase is not added it may make it impossible to meet NASA's goal of making the Ares I operational by FY14. Congress and any future administration is unlikely to approve a dramatic spike two or three years from now, as opposed to a steady buildup of the funds needed. As a result, it is very likely that the United States will have to rely on Russian launch vehicles for an even longer period after the Shuttle is retired in FY10.

I have also filled out the appropriate electronic form on the Committee website for this request. Since this is a program request, not a project request, my understanding is that it is unnecessary to include a financial disclosure letter. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Aderholt  
Member of Congress

RA:mc