

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 28, 2018

The Honorable James F. Bridenstine  
Administrator  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
300 E St. SW  
Washington, DC 20546

Dear Administrator Bridenstine,

President Trump's Space Policy Directive-1 instructs NASA to "[l]ead an innovative and sustainable program of exploration with commercial and international partners to enable human expansion across the solar system and to bring back to Earth new knowledge and opportunities." To further this goal, NASA issued solicitation number NNH18-AES-LSTC-RFI which expresses interest in the "development of domestic lunar lander capabilities that would evolve to meeting the identified performance towards human-class landers."

We support NASA's focus on returning to the moon and using it as part of a stepping stone approach to place American boots on the surface of Mars in the 2030's. As NASA reviews solicitations for lunar landers, we write to express our strong support for the establishment of NASA's lunar lander program at the Johnson Space Center.

The Johnson Space Center has served as NASA's lead center for human spaceflight for more than half a century. As NASA highlights, the Johnson Space Center is the nucleus of our nation's astronaut corps, home to the International Space Station mission operations, the Orion crew and a host of future space developments which includes enhancing technological and scientific knowledge to benefit all of human kind.

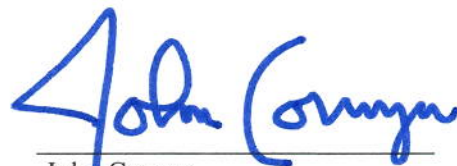
While the Marshall Space Flight Center specializes in rocketry and spacecraft propulsion and the Kennedy Space Center serves as NASA's primary launch center, it is without question that the Johnson Space Center is ground zero for human space exploration. "Houston" was one of the first words ever uttered on the surface of the moon and it is only fitting that the city that last sent man to the moon will be the lead in developing the lander that will once again send Americans to the lunar surface.

Given the Johnson Space Center's storied history, mission and the stated goal of the lunar lander program to evolve to human-class landers, we cannot think of a better NASA Center to establish and lead the lunar lander program than the Johnson Space Center. We stand ready to support you in this effort.

Sincerely,



Ted Cruz  
United States Senator



John Cornyn  
United States Senator

Lamar Smith

Lamar Smith  
Member of Congress

John Culberson

John A. Culberson  
Member of Congress

Brian Babin

Brian Babin  
Member of Congress