

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES FOR RESEARCH IN ASTRONOMY, INC.



April 16, 2018

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OPERATING FOR THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Gemini Observatory
La Serena, Chile & Hilo, Hawai'i

Large Synoptic Survey Telescope
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Baltimore, Maryland

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University of Wisconsin 1957
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Hon. Lamar Smith
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2018 and 2019 NASA re-authorization bill.

AURA is pleased to see that the Search for Life elsewhere in the Universe continues to be supported by the Committee as a NASA goal.

As you are no doubt aware, AURA priorities continue to be: robust support for the James Webb Space Telescope, especially for its operational phase after launch when the real science gets done; and successful completion of WFIRST with a coronagraph, crucial for detecting bio-signatures on planets around other stars.

We are happy to work with the Committee to ensure that NASA's search for life elsewhere is successful, and that NASA's astrophysics missions continue to create world-class science for the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Mountain". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matt" and last name "Mountain" clearly legible.

Matt Mountain
AURA President