COALITION for AEROSPACE and SCIENCE

December 13, 2022

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Chair, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Chair, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Shaheen, Ranking Member Moran, Chair Cartwright, and Ranking Member Aderholt:

The Coalition for Aerospace and Science (CAS) is an alliance of prominent industry, academic, and scientific organizations united in support of robust and sustained federal investment in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Earlier this year, CAS formally requested that Congress appropriate at least $27.84 billion for NASA in Fiscal Year 2023. This figure was based on your strong – but ultimately unrealized – proposals for FY 2022, plus a roughly 8 percent increase to insulate the Agency from the cost of projected inflation. In the months since CAS's initial request, the impacts of inflation and continued supply chain issues in the aerospace sector have become more fully realized; the individuals both within NASA and the organizations CAS represents continue to feel its effects in their daily lives, hardware or instrumentation costs have risen to such a degree that some competitive mission concepts now exceed program cost caps, and uncertainty over the Agency's funding outlook has curbed its ability to aggressively pursue recent decadal recommendations.

As you continue working to finalize FY 2023 appropriations, **CAS requests topline funding for NASA at no less than $25.97 billion and the Senate's proposed levels for the Agency's directorates.** Additionally, we request the agreement's explanatory statement reflect the following CAS priorities included in the House and/or Senate marks:

- **Wildfire Response ($8 million):** CAS supports the House mark's funding and direction associated with the establishment of a new "Wildfire Early Warning" demonstration.
- **Planetary Defense ($110 million):** CAS requests that any FY 2023 agreement maintain NEO Surveyor's funding at $110 million in order to preserve the mission's technical staff, long-lead procurements, and ensure a fiscally responsible path to launch in 2028.
- **Planetary Science ($3.2 billion):** CAS appreciates the identical funding support in the House and Senate for the Planetary Science Division. The Coalition strongly urges the final agreement reiterate the Senate's overall direction as well as support for Dragonfly's continued development, however we prefer the House's funding and direction on Planetary Defense.
- **Astrophysics ($1.9 billion):** CAS supports the Senate's mark for the Astrophysics Division. However, the Coalition is deeply concerned with proposed decrease for the Astrophysics Division, which will result in delays or disruptions to NASA's Explorer program and initiating decadal priorities like the Great Observatories Mission and Technology Maturation program.

- **Exploration Ground Systems ($848.4 million):** CAS requests $848.4 million for Exploration Ground Systems, which includes $330.6 (an increase of $98.5 million above the Senate's mark) for the Mobile Launcher 2's (ML-2) ongoing development. Additional funds are required for ML-2 to address significant technical challenges associated with overall design changes, growth in steel prices and other marketplace impacts caused by COVID-induced supply chain disruptions, and inflation.
- **Space Technology ($1.26 billion):** CAS supports the Senate's mark for the Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD), and that the agreement reiterates support for STMD's ongoing partnerships with industry and academia ($300 million), nuclear thermal propulsion ($110 million), and fission surface power demonstration activities ($50 million).

The Coalition and its members, included in this letter, appreciate your commitment to ensuring America's space program continues to be an innovative, strong, and global leader in space science and human exploration.

Sincerely,

Aerospace Industries Association
Aerospace States Association
American Astronautical Society
American Astronomical Society
American Geophysical Union
American Institute of Physics
American Society of Agronomy
Ball Aerospace
Boston University
Coalition for Deep Space Exploration
Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Cornell University
Crop Science Society of America
Florida State University
Geological Society of America
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
Human Factors and Ergonomics Society
IEEE-USA
Leidos
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
New Mexico State University
Northrop Grumman Corporation
Northwestern University
Optical Society of America
Penn State University
Planet Labs PBC
Princeton University
Purdue University
Raytheon Company
Rocket Lab
Rolls Royce Soil
Science Society of America
SPIE – the international society for optics and photonics
Texas A&M University
The Ohio State University
The Planetary Society
United Launch Alliance
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
University of Arizona
University of Colorado – Boulder
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California San Diego
University of Florida
University of Iowa
University of Notre Dame
University of Maryland – Baltimore County
University of Maryland – College Park
University of Michigan
University of New Hampshire
University of Texas at Austin
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin – Madison
Vanderbilt University
Washington State University
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution