



May 25, 2007

The Honorable Bill Nelson
Chairman, Subcommittee on Space, Aeronautics and Related Sciences
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510-0904

Dear Senator Nelson:

We are writing to thank you for your past support of NASA and to urge you to enact a top-line increase for NASA's FY 2008 budget. Without this increase, our nation faces the very real risk of losing our uniquely critical industrial base and human space access capability.

NASA plays a crucial role in advancing our nation's innovation agenda. NASA programs promote our scientific, economic and educational interests, and contribute to our national and homeland security requirements. In the past few years, we have witnessed the rise of strong national space programs in China, India, and Japan, and resurgence in Russian programs. We face major challenges to our space leadership and our national security.

In 2010, as the Shuttle is scheduled to be retired and we make the transition to the next generation of human spaceflight systems, the United States will become temporarily reliant on foreign human space transportation capabilities, if domestic commercial orbital space transportation does not emerge. In order to minimize this potential gap of independent American access to space, it is critical that we maintain funding and program stability for Orion and Ares I, sufficient to ensure a rapid and safe transition for American human space exploration. Future U.S. leadership in space is at stake.

This nation has an obligation to future generations of young Americans who, we hope, will focus their studies on science, math and engineering. Creating good, high-paying jobs in the aerospace and technology sectors will ensure that America maintains the technical human capital necessary for our country to retain its global economic strength well into the 21st century.

We are deeply concerned that there is a growing disparity between the programs that NASA has been asked to accomplish and the resources the agency has been provided. The FY 2007 Joint Resolution reduced NASA's human spaceflight program budget by \$670 million, the practical effect of which will be at least a six-month delay in the launch of the new Orion and Ares I space systems. NASA's FY 2008 request is \$17.3 billion, which is \$1.4 billion below the congressionally authorized level. The costs resulting from Hurricane Katrina, Space Shuttle

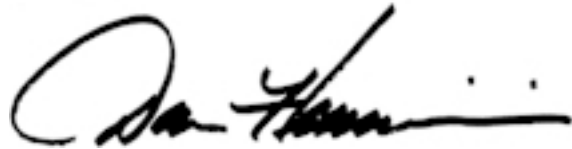
Return-to-Flight and the Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission pose continuing challenges to NASA.

The FY 2008 budget request is not adequate to accomplish all of NASA's important missions. Therefore, we request that you assure that Congress appropriates the total authorized \$18.7 billion in order to minimize our nation's gap in human spaceflight capability, ensure U.S. leadership in space, and contribute to our national and homeland security and international competitiveness.

Sincerely,



Matt Flanigan
Interim President & CEO
Electronic Industries Alliance



Dan Heinemeier
President
Government Electronics &
Information Technology Association