



July 22, 2005

The Honorable Sherwood Boehlert  
Chairman  
House Committee on Science  
2320 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bart Gordon  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Science  
2320 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Boehlert and Congressman Gordon,

As the FY2006 NASA Authorization Act approaches a final vote in the House, we write on behalf of the Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA) and the Government Electronics & Information Technology Association (GEIA), whose members include the leading providers of defense, aeronautics and space systems, to voice our opposition to any restrictions that would hinder NASA's ability to acquire the technology and services necessary for a strong and forward-looking space program or its ability to continue developing critical international agreements.

International cooperation has always been at the heart of NASA's work, and the partnerships that we have developed with allied countries and companies have proved their merit in the nearly five decades since NASA's inception. Many of our space science research programs depend on collaboration with these partners and, from time to time, they provide unique component parts, such as high-grade glass for optics and specialized propulsion engines. NASA currently has 230 contracts with 160 foreign companies, and legislation that would create barriers to procurement and cooperation could affect the work on these contracts. This could include projects such as the Deep Space Network of antennas, which supports interplanetary missions and astronomy observations for the exploration of the solar system and the universe.

At this time, the U.S. is striving to build stronger international relationship, and it is critical to NASA and to industry that we maintain cooperative initiatives. Language that would harm our relationships with allies by tightening criterion on procurement or placing statutory restrictions on NASA's ability to develop international agreements is not in anyone's best interests.

As you consider H.R. 3070, we respectfully request that you not support any legislation that would limit NASA's capacity to procure the necessary technology for its programs or to maintain and develop international agreements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave McCurdy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dave McCurdy  
President & CEO  
Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Heinemeier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dan C. Heinemeier, CAE  
President  
Government Electronics & Information  
Technology Association (GEIA)