

April 30, 2026

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chairman
Senate CJS Subcommittee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Ranking Member
Senate CJS Subcommittee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
House CJS Subcommittee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Grace Meng
Ranking Member
House CJS Subcommittee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Moran and Rogers, and Ranking Members Van Hollen and Meng:

The President's FY 2027 budget request again proposes draconian cuts to America's space science activities, including a 46% or \$3.4 billion reduction to NASA's Science Mission Directorate. We call on Congress to rapidly and resoundingly reject this misguided proposal. Instead, Congress should build on the strong, bipartisan foundation of the FY 2026 appropriation, which reflected recent congressional consensus and public enthusiasm for Earth and space science. As the United States advances the Artemis program and builds on the momentum of returning Americans to the Moon, robust space science is essential to sustain that progress and ensure we explore not just with human courage, but with the scientific knowledge that makes exploration meaningful. If enacted, the FY 2027 request would end U.S. leadership in space science and needlessly damage the nation's scientific workforce.

The proposal would [terminate more than 50 science missions and projects](#) spanning planetary science, astrophysics, heliophysics, Earth science, and biological and physical sciences. It would eliminate more than 2,000 additional civil service positions across NASA, disrupt the commercial and contractor workforce, and affect thousands more scientists and students through reductions to fundamental research grants and investments. Adjusted for inflation, this proposal would result in the [smallest NASA budget for space science since 1984](#). Critically, these reductions would directly undermine NASA's Artemis program. The Science Mission Directorate provides the data, analysis, and trained workforce required to support lunar surface operations, interpret returned samples, and reduce mission risk. Weakening these capabilities would degrade mission readiness and limit the scientific return from Artemis, undermining investments that Congress has consistently supported.

NASA's science activities engage every state in the union and three-quarters of all congressional districts. They support more than 70,000 jobs and generate billions of dollars in economic activity throughout the country. They provide unique opportunities for students to engage directly with space exploration through mission participation and STEM outreach, and they inspire the public through one-of-a-kind images of other worlds, our home planet, and our home star.

The American people and their representatives stand ready to support our nation's role as leader in space science and exploration. The public itself highly prioritizes space science at NASA. In an April poll conducted by Ipsos, respondents stated that monitoring Earth's climate, creating new technologies, and exploring the Solar System — all activities enabled by NASA Science — were the

top three most important activities at NASA.¹ Pew Research Center has consistently found that roughly seven in ten Americans — including majorities of both Republicans and Democrats — believe it is essential for the United States to be a world leader in space exploration.² Large majorities similarly value federal investment in scientific research³ and see NASA's continued involvement as critical. These proposed cuts run directly counter to the public's aspirations for American leadership in science and space.

Congress has repeatedly demonstrated support for space science. Thanks to your leadership on this issue, a large bipartisan majority in the House (397 - 28) and the Senate (82 - 15) voted to reject similar cuts to NASA, NASA Science, and the National Science Foundation in FY 2026.

In March, 103 members of the House of Representatives, led by Planetary Science Caucus Co-Chairs Reps. Don Bacon (R-NE) and Judy Chu (D-CA), sent a bipartisan letter to Appropriations leadership calling for \$9 billion for NASA Science, a \$1.75 billion increase over current levels.⁴ In April, 22 Senators, led by Sen. Mark Kelly (D-AZ), submitted a similar request.⁵

Public and congressional support for a robust and balanced program of space science and exploration is clearly demonstrated. We call on Congress to once again reject these unpopular, destructive, and short-sighted cuts to America's space science enterprise. Our organizations stand ready to, again, work with Congress to protect American leadership in space science and exploration.

Respectfully,

Professional Societies

American Astronomical Society
American Society for Gravitational and Space Research
Scientific Society for Astrobiology

Advocacy Organizations

Astronauts for America Action Fund
Explore Mars, Inc.
The Mars Society
Open Lunar Foundation
Stand Up For Science
The Planetary Society
Union of Concerned Scientists

Labor Unions

Goddard Engineers, Scientists and Technicians Association (GESTA)

¹ "Americans Express Pride in U.S. Space Program." Ipsos, April 7, 2026. [Source](#).

² Brian Kennedy and Alec Tyson. "Americans' Views of Space: U.S. Role, NASA Priorities and Impact of Private Companies." Pew Research Center, July 20, 2023. [Source](#).

³ Brian Kennedy and Alec Tyson, and Cary Funk. "Americans Value U.S. Role as Scientific Leader, but 38% Say Country Is Losing Ground Globally." Pew Research Center, October 25, 2022. [Source](#).

⁴ Letter from Rep. Judy Chu, Rep. Don Bacon, and 101 Members of Congress to Chairman Hal Rogers and Ranking Member Grace Meng, House Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee, requesting \$9 billion for NASA's Science Mission Directorate in FY 2027. March 13, 2026.

⁵ Letter from Sen. Mark Kelly, Sen. Adam Schiff, and 20 Senators to Chairman Jerry Moran and Ranking Member Chris Van Hollen, Senate Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee, requesting \$9 billion for NASA's Science Mission Directorate in FY 2027. April 14, 2026.

International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE)
International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of
America (UAW)

Industry Associations

Coalition for Aerospace and Science
Maryland Aerospace Alliance

Community Groups

Black in Astro
Goddard Family Alliance
NASA Needs Help
Smoky Mountains STEM Collaborative
Students for the Exploration and Development of Space

Private Institutions

Gulf of Maine Research Institute
Planetary Science Institute
Woodwell Climate Research Center