

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 5, 2019

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, and Science
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member, Subcommittee
on Commerce, Justice, and Science
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-146 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510


Dear Chairman Moran and Ranking Member Shaheen:

Our nation is on the cusp of a new era of human space exploration that will push the envelope of our knowledge of the universe and return American astronauts to deep space for the first time in nearly 50 years. NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and Orion spacecraft will soon begin a series of Exploration Missions that will not only return Americans to the Moon but will begin building the critical infrastructure for humanity's first manned missions to Mars.

SLS and Orion are the world's only rocket and spacecraft designed to safely transport humans to deep space and return them back to Earth. SLS's Exploration Upper Stage (EUS) will provide the critical capacity to launch both human crew on Orion as well as large lunar Gateway modules, lunar landers and other mission elements at the same time. By including human and cargo payloads on the same flight, SLS will save money, reduce risk and accelerate the Gateway's completion. These NASA systems play a critical role in opening deep space not only for U.S. astronauts but also by providing opportunities for commercial and international partner engagement to expand human presence at the Moon, on Mars and throughout the solar system. As other nations look towards the Moon and Mars, it is essential that America lead our international partners with these new NASA exploration systems, so we can go forward together to explore deep space.

As SLS, Orion and their mission-enabling Exploration Ground Systems (EGS) segments complete assembly, integration and final testing, it is important that Congress continue to provide necessary funding for these systems in the FY 2020 appropriation bills. We respectfully urge your continued support for the appropriations necessary to meet launch schedules for Exploration Missions 1-3, as well as complete development of EUS and the Mobile Launch Platforms. The Appropriations Committee has been consistent over the past several years in providing the necessary funding for these programs and we urge you to continue this commitment in the FY 2020 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

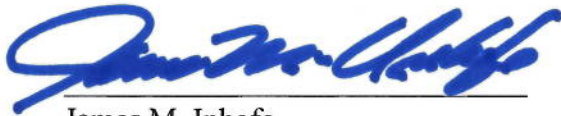


Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

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James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



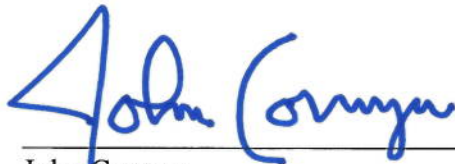
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



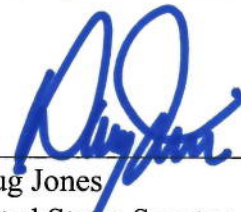
John Cornyn
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



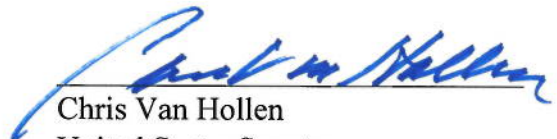
Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



Doug Jones
United States Senator



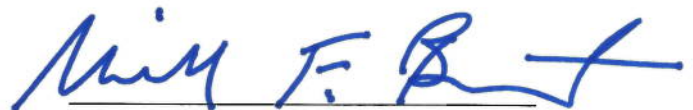
Rick Scott
United States Senator



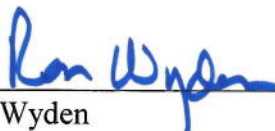
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



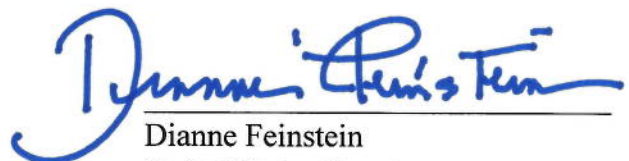
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



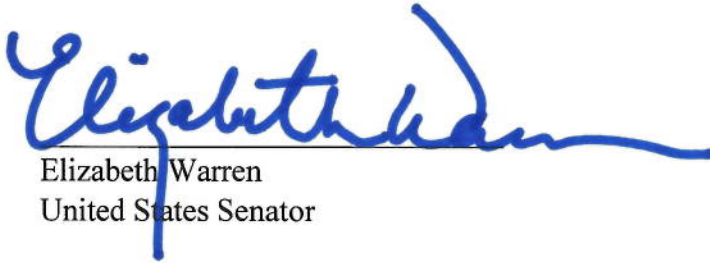
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



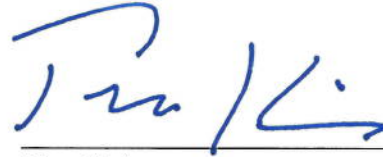
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



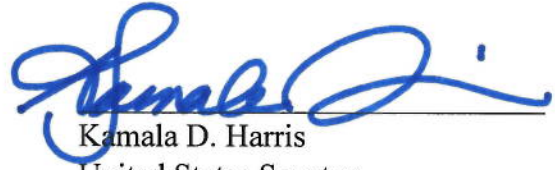
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



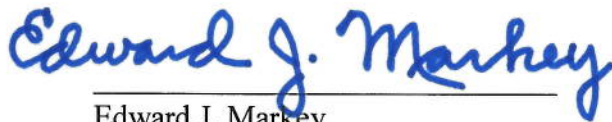
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



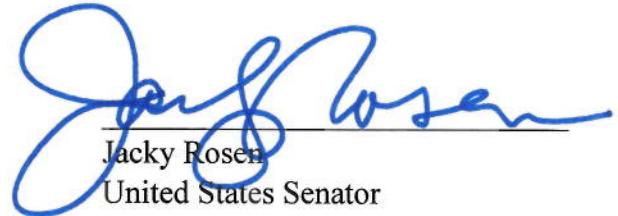
Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator