BAY AREA HOUSTON
Economic Partnership

TO: Augustine Panel (Review of U.S. Human Space Flight Plans Committee)
FROM: Citizens for Space Exploration
RE: Future of America's Space Exploration Program

We appreciate the opportunity to communicate our views on the importance of America's continued investment in space exploration. "Citizens for Space Exploration" is a grassroots group of taxpayers who support NASA and space exploration. We have travelled to Washington, D.C. annually for the past 18 years meeting with Members and staff concerning the value derived from our national investment in NASA and space exploration.

In 2009, for example, 115 citizen representatives from 24 states – including 26 university students – participated in this outreach event. This year alone, we met with 341 Congressional offices. Our 2009 point paper is included, as well as a copy of our 2008 point paper entitled "1% for Our Future" which calls for a gradual buildup of the NASA budget to 1% of the total federal budget (compared to .5% for FY10) to more effectively support the broad range of NASA's space exploration, space science and aeronautics research missions.

As important as an adequate level of funding is for NASA – and it is important – maintaining a constancy of purpose in our efforts to explore and discover is critical. While we are not qualified to judge the technical merits of the current Constellation Program, we are convinced that a practice of starting over again every several years is a guaranteed formula for failure.

We have the opportunity to remain leaders in space, to develop innovative technologies, to be competitive in the world marketplace and to apply what we learn in space to improve our quality of life here on Earth. We can choose to do so, or we can forfeit our leadership to other nations. Citizens for Space Exploration comes down four square on the side of U.S. leadership and we urge the Augustine Panel to recommend options to the President consistent with continued U.S. leadership in human space exploration.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bob Mitchell
President, Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership
(on behalf of Citizens for Space Exploration)

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CITIZENS FOR SPACE EXPLORATION

1% ... For Our Future

America currently invests 6/10^{ths} of 1 % of the federal budget in NASA. From this investment, America derives substantial benefits relative to:

- Leadership in Space and National Security
- Technological Competitiveness
- Scientific Discovery and Innovation
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Education
- Quality of Life
- Thousands of Technical Jobs and Business Opportunities

Nonetheless, we are shortchanging ourselves and our future by failing to adequately fund the full range of NASA mission opportunities in exploration, science and aeronautics.

- *"... at present funding levels, NASA's budget is sufficient to support a variety of excellent space programs,* ***but it cannot support all of the potential programs we could execute."***

  Statement of NASA Administrator Mike Griffin to House Appropriations Committee (March 5, 2008)

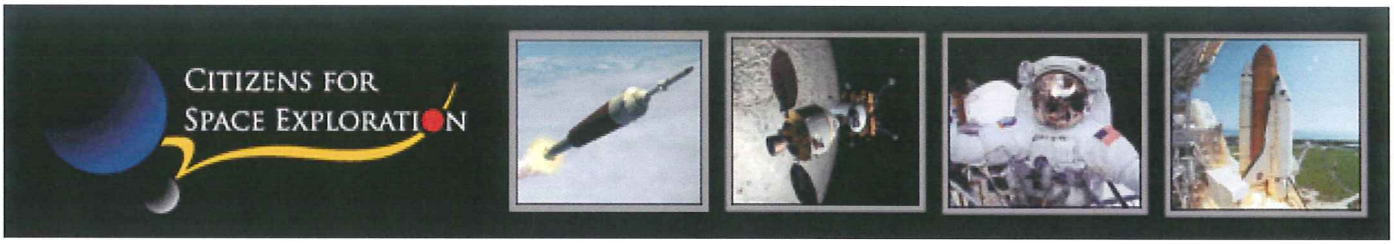
- This same sentiment is echoed time and again by Members of Congress on both sides of the political aisle who argue that we not only "could" execute but we should execute these programs.

To maximize the benefits of space and aeronautics, the United States should set a goal of investing 1% of total federal funding annually in NASA.

- This goal can be reached on a determined, but incremental, basis over the course of the next five years – starting with the Fiscal Year 2009 budget currently under review by Congress and leveling off with the Fiscal Year 2013 budget.
- A 1% funding commitment would create new options and opportunities driving the potential for achievement and progress.
- A 1% funding commitment would:
  - address the "Gap" in America's human space transportation capability (as well as the workforce impact resulting from the conclusion of Shuttle operations in 2010)
  - provide a more robust planetary and earth monitoring space science agenda
  - enable advances in aeronautics research

As citizen taxpayers, we call upon the President and Congress to set a GOAL OF 1% for NASA as a sound investment in our nation's future!

www.citizensforspaceexploration.org



Citizens for Space Exploration

Congressional support for NASA is vital to the success of our Nation's economy and human space exploration program

Who We Are

American taxpayers supporting NASA and human space exploration

What We Support

An adequately funded human space exploration program to support the Space Shuttle, International Space Station and Constellation programs

- **Maintain America's Access to Space:** Commit to flying Space Shuttle safely to complete assembly of the International Space Station and develop the Ares launch vehicles and Orion crew exploration vehicle in a timely manner
- **Leverage Research Potential of International Space Station:** Extend the life of this National Laboratory in space past 2015, to realize its full benefit in research, science, exploration, commerce and international cooperation
- **Explore Beyond Low-Earth-Orbit:** Keep Constellation Program on track – including the Ares and Orion vehicles – to support missions to the moon (2020), Mars and other destinations
- **1% for Our Future:** Support a long-term goal of investing 1% of the federal budget annually in NASA (compared to .5% currently received)

Why We Support NASA and Human Space Exploration

- **Leadership:** To ensure national security and America's preeminence in space
- **Job Creation:** To stimulate high tech industries and creation of new jobs
- **Maintain Jobs:** To support aerospace industry that employs 500,000 people across the nation and accounts for nearly 2% of the U.S. gross domestic product
- **Education:** To promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
- **Health Care:** To advance medical-related and life science research
- **Environment:** To better understand planet Earth and manage its resources
- **Quality of Life:** To generate life-changing spinoffs from space technology

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