

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SUITE 2321 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6301
(202) 225-6375
<http://science.house.gov>

June 10, 2010

The Honorable Charles F. Bolden, Jr.
Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Two Independence Square, SW
Washington, D.C. 20546

Dear Administrator Bolden:

As was indicated to you during your appearance before the Committee on May 26, 2010, since the President's budget request was sent to Congress, this Committee has been requesting the information we need to make informed decisions about the administration's proposed plan for the future of NASA and more specifically the future of human space flight. Moreover, since the additional initiatives announced by the president on April 15, 2010 were not accompanied by a request for additional funding or a clear programmatic request, there is a further need for adequate information. As the committee prepares to move forward with an authorization for the agency, it is essential that we have the agency's justification for these significant programmatic and funding changes.

During the May 26th hearing, questions were raised about the executability of the plan proposed in the FY 2011 budget request. NASA's budget for human space flight and technology released in February provides about the same amount of funding through FY 2015 as the FY 2010 budget guidance characterized by the Augustine committee as "not viable" for an exploration program. Equally important, NASA's budget guidance through 2025—the date of the proposed first human mission to an asteroid—provides \$40 to \$50 billion *less* than the amount the Augustine panel determined would be needed to implement any of its exploration options. Finally, as noted above, new unfunded efforts such as the crew escape vehicle will also need to be addressed in NASA's budget over the next five years.

Accordingly, as you committed to do during the May 26th hearing, we request that you provide an amended budget request to the Committee, including the total cost estimate for the proposed crew escape vehicle initiative, the acquisition approach and timetable for the development of the crew escape vehicle, and the specific budgetary offsets the administration is proposing to pay for the crew escape vehicle for each of the years FY 2011 through 2015. In addition, we request that you provide the budgetary

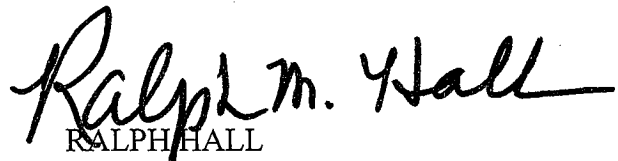
analysis and assumptions used to demonstrate the executability of your proposed plan to develop the crew escape vehicle, extend the International Space Station, develop a new heavy lift launch vehicle, develop a crewed vehicle for missions beyond low Earth orbit, develop a commercial crew industry, as well as carry out your proposed program of exploration technology demonstrations and robotic precursors, preliminary crewed missions beyond low Earth orbit, and a crewed mission to a near Earth asteroid by 2025.

In order for the Committee to carry out its authorization responsibilities in a timely manner, we ask that you provide the above information by close of business on Wednesday, June 16, 2010.

Sincerely,



BART GORDON
Chairman



RALPH HALL
Ranking Member



GABRIELLE GIFFORDS
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on
Space and Aeronautics



PETE OLSON
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on
Space and Aeronautics