



NASA'S FY2011 APPROPRIATIONS: FINAL ACTION IN THE 112TH CONGRESS

This fact sheet¹ provides SpacePolicyOnline.com tables showing President Obama's FY2011 budget request for NASA, the amount of funding authorized by Congress for FY2011, and the final appropriated amount for FY2011 as part of the "full year" Continuing Resolution (CR) enacted on April 15, 2011.

After passing several [short-term CRs](#) to keep the government operating at FY2010 levels, agreement was finally reached on April 8, 2011 at the highest political levels as to the overall level of funding for the government for the rest of FY2011 (through September 30). Congressional appropriators then had to decide where to make specific cuts to meet the overall funding target and write them into a "full year" CR for formal consideration by Congress. The text of that full year CR, [H.R. 1473](#), was posted on the website of the House Rules Committee on April 12. Congress passed it on April 14, 2011 and it was signed into law on April 15 (P.L. 112-10).

NASA was appropriated \$18.485 billion for FY2011, \$241 million less than its FY2010 appropriations and \$516 million less than the President's FY2011 request for the agency.

Congress passed a 2010 NASA Authorization Act (P.L. 111-267) in 2010 that authorizes NASA funding for FY2011-2013, but authorization bills provide policy guidance and [recommend](#) funding levels. They do not actually provide any money. The authorized level for FY2011 is the same as the President's request (\$19.000 billion), so the FY2011 appropriation is \$516 million less than the authorization. For an explanation of the difference between an authorization and an appropriation, see our [What's A Markup?](#) fact sheet. Table 2 below shows the authorized levels for FY2011. The authorized levels for FY2012 and FY2013 are in the [historical version](#) of this fact sheet.

The "Full Year" Continuing Resolution (CR): [H.R. 1473](#) (P.L. 112-10)

Congress passed H.R. 1473 on April 14. It was signed into law by President Obama on April 15, 2011 (P.L. 112-10). The amounts provided for NASA are shown in Table 1.

¹ The title of this fact sheet originally was "NASA's FY2011 Appropriations: Debate Continues in the 112th Congress." An earlier version of our fact sheet showing the authorized levels for FY2011, FY2012 and FY2013 and the status of the appropriations debate at the end of the 111th Congress is available [here](#).

Table 1: NASA's FY2011 Appropriations in the Compromise Full Year Continuing Resolution: H.R. 1473 (P.L. 112-10)
(in \$ billions)

Account	2010 Approps (P.L. 111-117)	2011 President's Request	Compromise Full Year CR (P.L. 112-10)	Difference from 2010 Approps	Difference from 2011 Request
Science	4.469	5.006	4.945	+0.476	-0.061
Aeronautics and Space Tech*	.501	1.152	.535	+0.034	-0.617
Exploration	3.746	4.263	3.808	+0.062	-0.455
<i>Crew Vehicle</i>			1.200		
<i>HLLV*</i>			1.800		
Space Ops	6.147	4.888	5.509	-0.638	+0.621
Education	.183	.146	.146	-0.037	0.0
Cross Agency Support	3.194	3.111	3.111	-0.083	0.0
Construction & Env Compliance & Remediation	.449	.397	.394	-0.055	-0.003
Inspector Gen	.036	.037	.036	0.0	-0.001
TOTAL	18.724	19.000	18.485	-0.241	-0.516

Notes: **Totals may not add due to rounding.**

Italics designate subsets.

*The law appropriates money for "Aeronautics" not "Aeronautics and Space Technology" as presented in the President's budget request. The law does not specify how much money is to be spent for the space technology activities that were requested as part of this account.

The law does not specify funding for the other elements of the Exploration amount, only for the Crew Vehicle and the Heavy Lift Launch Vehicle (HLLV). The bill specifies that the HLLV "shall have a lift capability not less than 130 tons and which shall have an upper stage and other core elements developed simultaneously." It also directs that the funds for the crew vehicle be used to "continue existing vehicle development activities" to meet the requirements spelled out in the 2010 NASA Authorization Act.

The law specifies that no funds may be used by NASA or OSTP for space cooperation with China unless specifically authorized by Congress.

Sources:

- [FY2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act, P.L. 111-117](#)
- [FY2011 President's Budget Request for NASA](#)
- H.R. 1473, Compromise [Full Year Continuing Resolution](#)

Table 2: FY2011 NASA Budget Request, FY2011 Authorized Level, and FY2011 Appropriations in H.R. 1473 (P.L. 112-10) (in \$ billions)

FY2011	FY2011 President's Request	FY 2011 Authorization (P.L. 111-267)	Compromise Full-Year CR (P.L. 112-10)	P.L. 112-10 Difference from Authorization
Science	5.006	5.006	4.945	-0.061
<i>Earth Sci</i>	1.802	1.802		
<i>Planetary</i>	1.486	1.486		
<i>Astrophysics</i>	1.076	1.076		
<i>Heliophysics</i>	0.642	0.642		
Aeronautics and Space Tech	1.152	0.930	0.535	-0.395
<i>Aeronautics</i>	0.580	0.580		
<i>Space Technology</i>	0.572	0.350		
Exploration	4.263	3.868	3.808	-0.060
<i>Human Research</i>	0.215	0.155		
<i>Comrc'l cargo demo</i>	0.312	0.300		
<i>Comrc'l crew</i>	0.500	0.312		
<i>Multipurpose Crew Vehicle</i>	--	1.120	1.200	+0.080
<i>HLLV & Prop R&D</i>	0.559			
<i>Tech Dev & Demo</i>	0.652			
<i>Space Launch System</i>	--	1.631	1.800	+0.169
<i>Expl. Tech. Dev.</i>		0.250		
<i>Robotic Precursors</i>	0.125	0.100		
<i>Constellation Closeout</i>	1.900	--		
Space Operations	4.888	5.509	5.509	0.0
<i>Shuttle</i>	0.989	1.610		
<i>ISS</i>	2.780	2.780		
<i>Sp & Flt Support</i>	1.119	1.119 (0.429 is for NASA launch support & modernization)		
Education	0.146	0.146 (0.025 is for EPSCOR; 0.046 for Space Grant)	0.146	0.0
Cross Agency	3.111	3.111	3.111	0.0
Constr & Env C	0.397	0.394	0.394	0.0
IG	0.037	0.037	0.036	-0.001
TOTAL	19.000	19.000	18.485	-0.515

Totals may not add due to rounding. *Italics designate subsets.*

- Sources: [President's FY2011 Budget Request for NASA](#)
- [P.L. 111-267](#), the 2010 NASA Authorization Act
- Compromise [Full Year Continuing Resolution](#) released April 12, 2011.

Short-Term Continuing Resolutions for FY2011

Keeping track of the CRs that temporarily funded the government in FY2011 was challenging. There were four CRs for FY2011 during the 111th Congress, the last of which funded the government through March 4, 2011. Thus, at the beginning of the 112th Congress in January 2011, a CR was in effect through March 4.

When it became clear agreement on a full year CR would not be reached by March 4, Congress passed and the President signed into law on March 2 a different, short-term CR (H. J. Res. 44) that extended funding for two more weeks, until March 18. It cut \$4 billion from federal spending, but none was from NASA. It did not contain the language in H.R. 1 concerning termination of the Constellation program or cooperation with China (see appendix).

Agreement on a full-year CR still could not be reached by March 18, so Congress passed and the President signed still another short-term CR for three weeks that expired on April 8. It cut \$6 billion in federal spending, keeping to a Republican pledge to cut \$2 billion per week. Of that, NASA was cut \$63 million, the same amount that was included in its FY2010 budget for earmarked projects; Congress has agreed not to include earmarks this year.

Another short-term CR was enacted on April 8th for one week (through April 15) by which time the “full year” CR was enacted and that became the final result for FY2011.

Appendix

Historical Information on H.R. 1 and the March 4 Senate Appropriations Alternative

The first attempt in the 112th Congress at a full year CR ended in failure on March 9 when both the House-passed version of H.R. 1 and the Senate Appropriations Committee's alternative were defeated. The following information thus is of historical interest only.

The first two columns of the historical table below compare NASA's FY2010 appropriations – the level at which the agency operated until H.R. 1473 was enacted on April 15 – with the President's request for FY2011. The next three columns compare what the House passed in H.R. 1 on February 19, 2011 and how that differed from the FY2010 spending level and the FY2011 request. The last column shows the Senate Appropriations Committee's counterproposal as published in the March 4, 2011 Congressional Record.

Initially, the House Appropriations Committee issued a set of funding recommendations on February 9, 2011, but they were criticized by conservative "Tea Party" Republicans in the House for not cutting deeply enough. The committee thereupon issued a revised set of recommendations on February 11. That is what was introduced as H.R. 1.

The committee's goal was to cut FY2011 spending by \$100 billion compared to the FY2011 request and thus much of the discussion in the media talked about changes to the request. It should be noted, however, that H.R. 1 made cuts or additions based on FY2010 appropriated levels, not the FY2011 request.

During floor debate on H.R. 1, a Weiner amendment was adopted cutting an additional \$298 million from NASA's Cross Agency Support budget. The historical table below shows the amount as passed by the House, so the Weiner amendment is included in those figures.

**Historical Table:
Defeated Full Year CR (H.R. 1 and Senate Alternative)
February-March 2011
(in \$ billions)**

Account	2010 Approp	2011 President's Request	House- passed H.R. 1* (<u>Defeated in Senate March 9</u>)	House- Pressed Difference from 2010 Approp	House- Passed Difference from 2011 Request	Senate Amendment (<u>Defeated in Senate March 9</u>)
Science	4.469	5.006	4.469		-.537	4.819
Aeronautics and Space Tech	.501	1.152	.501		-.651	.501
Exploration	3.746	4.263	3.746		-.517	3.746
Space Ops	6.147	4.888	5.947	-.200	+1.059	5.742
Education	.183	.146	.183		+.037	.183
Cross Agency Support	3.194	3.111	2.833	-.361	-.278	3.111
Construction & Env Compliance & Remediation	.448	.397	.408	-.040	+.011	.397
Inspector Gen	.036	.037	.036		-.001	.036
TOTAL	18.724	19.000	18.123	-.601	-.877	18.539

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Note: All earmarks were removed in both the House and Senate versions. Also, the Obama Administration's FY2011 request assumed funding only one quarter (October-December 2010) of space shuttle operations. It now appears that it will fly through most of FY2011, thus explaining at least in part the significant increase in Space Operations funding compared to the FY2011 request.

Sources:

- [FY2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act, P.L. 111-117](#)
- [FY2011 President's Budget Request for NASA](#)
- [House Appropriations Committee Recommendation in H.R. 1](#) and related materials on the House Appropriations Committee's [website](#)
- House action on H.R. 1, February 15-19, 2011; see the Congressional Record for those days. A Weiner amendment cut an additional \$298 million from Cross Agency Support (and transferred it to the COPS program in the Justice Department) on top of the committee recommended reduction of \$63 million from that account. The Weiner amendment was debated on February 15 and adopted 228-203 on February 16.
- Senate (Inouye) amendment published in March 4, 2011 Congressional Record, p. S1288. The committee [press release](#) says the total recommended NASA budget is \$461 million less than the request, making it \$18.539 billion. Accounts not specified in the amendment are funded at the FY2010 level according to committee staff.