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Dear Friends:

I am sorry I cannot be with you today for the 2018 National Space Grant Fall Meeting, hosted by the Vermont Space Grant Consortium. Let me thank everyone who contributed to making this meeting a success.

Since 1992, the Vermont Space Grant Consortium has done a really excellent job encouraging students to study aerospace-related fields. Moreover, by connecting young Vermonters with NASA, VTSGC plays a critical role promoting scientific research and building a NASA-ready workforce.

I know I do not need tell you that during the last half of the twentieth century, research at federal agencies like NASA launched countless technologies, new drug treatments and medical devices, cleaner air and water, better nutrition, and many consumer products that have benefitted humankind in so many ways. In fact, perhaps no federal agency is more associated with aggressive research and development than NASA, particularly during the famous race to the moon in the 1960s.

NASA has not only added immeasurably to our knowledge of the Earth, the solar system, and space in general, but it paved the way for technological advances such as advanced computers, cell phones, global positions systems, and other satellite communications. NASA's innovations help keep us connected, track sea level changes and drought conditions, and save lives and minimize damage during hurricanes, earthquakes, and forest fires.

In many ways, your work has never been more important. Best of luck with your gathering in beautiful Stowe, and with your ongoing efforts encouraging students to engage in scientific inquiry.

Sincerely,


BERNARD SANDERS
UNITED STATES SENATOR