Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2020

The Honorable José Serrano Chairman House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science H-307 Capitol Washington, DC 20510 The Honorable Robert Aderholt Ranking Member House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science 1016 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Serrano and Ranking Member Aderholt:

We are writing to request that you support the NASA National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program (Space Grant) in Fiscal Year 2021 at the rate of \$52 million.

Space Grant is a competitive, state-federal partnership that functions through consortia in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia. The program enables students to engage in outreach activities and research projects that prepare them for STEM careers. As this is a state-based program, we urge the Committee to ensure that the entire appropriated amount, less a 10% administration fee and 5% special projects set aside, be allocated to consortia-lead institutions in all 52 jurisdictions so that these activities can continue without interruption. Such an approach is consistent with the FY2020 Congressional direction for the program.

Space Grant consortia are effective catalysts in each state to help grow a high-tech workforce. With over 1,000 partner institutions, this program promotes aerospace and other NASA relevant STEM education activities, and helps sustain a pipeline of students for innovative, high-tech jobs. For every dollar that NASA provides, Space Grant consortia contribute on average an equal or greater amount from non-federal sources to maximize resources available to students in their states. Because this is a federal-state partnership, the Space Grant program not only addresses national needs, but has proven to be very effective at fulfilling state and regional STEM goals—NASA program data shows that, of all participating students graduating in a particular year, over 90% move on to either a STEM job in industry, NASA, academia, or they enroll in a STEM graduate program.

As you work to advance the Fiscal Year 2021 Commerce, Justice, and Science bill, please keep this important program in mind. It is vital that we sustain the excellent work being done in the states by continuing to support this program.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Wexton

Member of Congress

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