

DRAFT

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice and Science
S 146-A Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, and Science
SD-144
Washington, D.C. 20510

We are writing in support of the President's budget request of \$28.76 million for the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program (Space Grant). We are also asking that you include the following report language, similar to last year, specifying the allocation among the Space Grant consortia: "The Committee has included the budget request of \$28,760,000 for the National Space Grant College and Fellowship program. The amount provided will fund 35 states at \$615,250 each and 17 states at \$425,000 each."

Space Grant provides scholarships and fellowships to students in every state and most Congressional districts. It provides practical educational and research experiences for students in aeronautics, space science, earth science, and related fields. Workshops and after-school programs are conducted to assist faculty and teachers and to attract and retain students in relevant STEM career tracks. With a modest investment per state, Space Grant is a program that is working throughout the nation.

At a time of increasing concern over America's competitiveness in the world and a national interest in advancing innovation, Space Grant provides important support for education, workforce development, research and public service projects through a national network of over 800 affiliates which include universities, colleges, federal R&D centers, state and local government entities and business partners, located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

We believe that funding the Space Grant program at \$28.76 million and including the requested language will allow the Space Grant program to move forward and will encourage the rapid allocation of funds to the individual Space Grant consortia so that they can efficiently plan and implement their state programs.

Thank you for your previous support and for your interest in the Space Grant program.