

March 6, 2006

COVER LETTER FOR REPRESENTATIVES **SUPPORT FUNDING** **FOR SPACE SCIENCE EDUCATION!**

Dear Colleague,

We encourage you to join us in signing the attached letter to Chairman Frank Wolf and Ranking Member

Alan Mollohan, urging the support of the President's budget request of \$28.76 million for the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program (Space Grant) and the following language: "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.

The President's request of \$28.76 million and language in FY07 is vital for Space Grant to continue to be a leader in promoting a strong science, mathematics, and technology education to prepare our young people for careers in aerospace science and technology. **To sign on – or for more information on the Space Grant program in general or for information on its activities in your state – please call Leslee Gilbert in Congressman Ralph Hall's office at 202-225-6673 or Heather Parsons in Congressman Brad Miller's office at 202-225-3032.**

Sincerely,

Ralph Hall

Brad Miller