

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 8, 2005

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice,
and Commerce, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice,
and Commerce, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Mollohan:

As you prepare to mark up the FY 2006 Science, State, Justice, Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to appropriate \$29.550 million for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program (Space Grant).

NASA's FY 2006 budget states that the Higher Education projects are intended to serve as a major link in the student pipeline used to address NASA's Human Capital Strategies and the President's Management Agenda by helping to "... build, sustain and effectively deploy the skilled, knowledgeable, diverse, and high performing workforce needed to meet the current and emerging needs of government and its citizens." It further states that all higher education projects will continue to focus on retaining students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, (STEM) disciplines through their completion of undergraduate or graduate degrees and entry into the scientific and technical workforce. We are not training enough Americans in STEM for the high technology requirements of tomorrow.

One answer to this issue – a proven one—is the Space Grant program. 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 space, 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. It is a program that is working throughout the nation. Space Grant provides important support for the nation's science and aerospace effort by funding education, workforce development, research and public service projects through a national network of over 800 affiliates which include universities, colleges, federal R&D centers and business partners, located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

As you know, Space Grant was first established under Title II of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Act of 1988 (P.L. 100-147). The first Space Grant awards were announced in 1989. Today, a network of 52 state-wide consortia, with relatively little federal funding, ranging, at this point, from \$215,000-\$475,000 per consortium per year, is delivering an

impressive and important array of programs designed to attract young people to space science and engineering careers and to help prepare for entry into scientific and high technology jobs in this area, where we face critical shortages of highly skilled U.S. citizens.

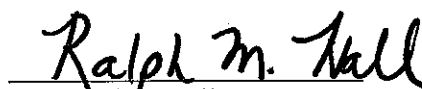
The most current FY2000 NASA Reauthorization Act authorized the Space Grant program at \$28 million in FY 2001 and FY 2002. Thanks to your help, Space Grant is currently funded at \$28.2 million for FY 2005. As you know, the President's FY 2006 budget request is again at \$19.1 million. We are asking for your help to appropriate \$29.550 million to the Space Grant program in FY 2006. This will build upon the current \$28.2 million program and continue efforts including workforce development initiatives to attract and retain a diverse set of students in NASA-related fields of study and jobs.

Again, we urge you to appropriate \$29.550 million in FY 2006 for Space Grant. Thank you for your consideration.

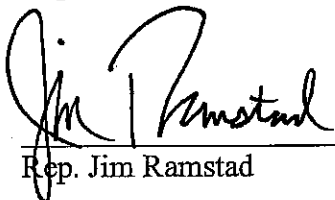
Sincerely,



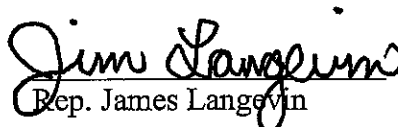
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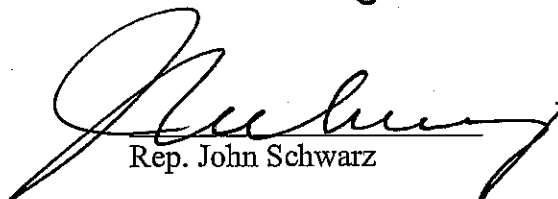
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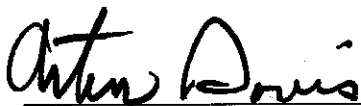
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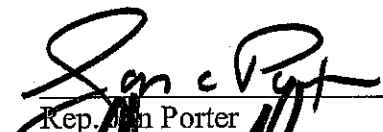
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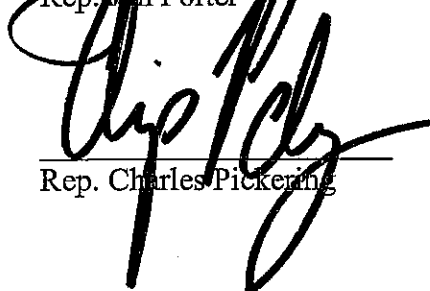
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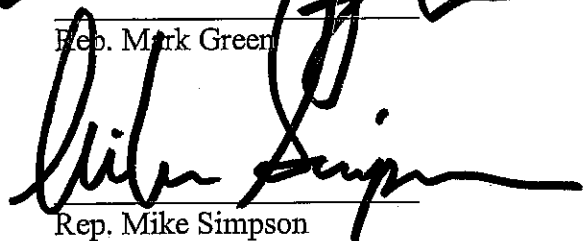
Daniel Lipinski

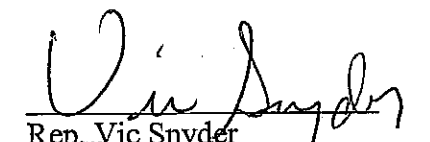
Rep. Daniel Lipinski

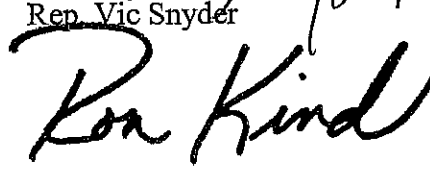
Tim Johnson

Rep. Tim Johnson

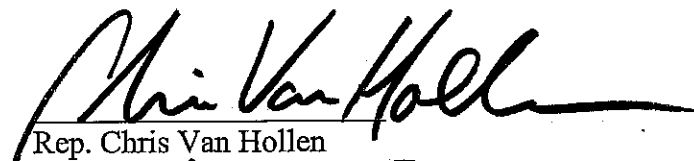

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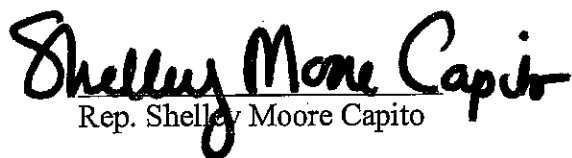

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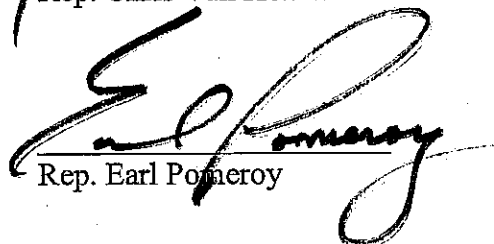

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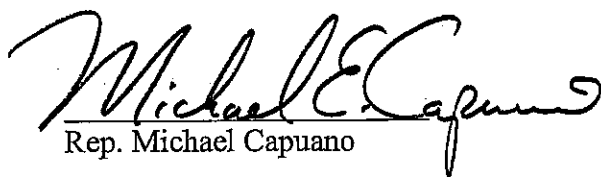

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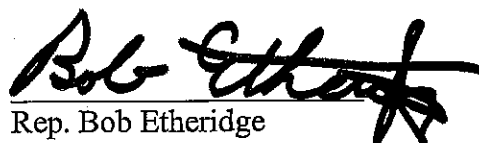

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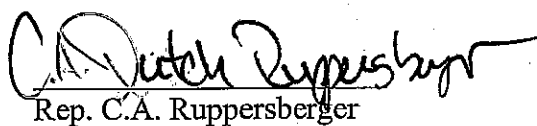

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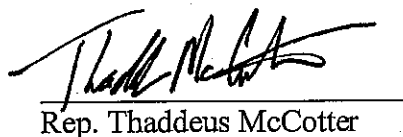

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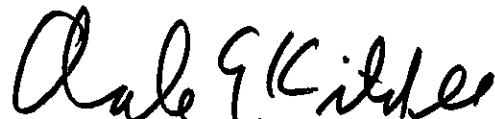

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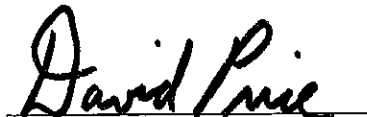

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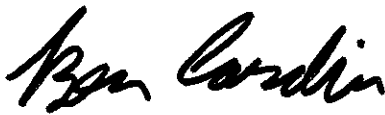

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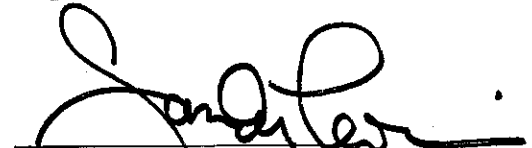

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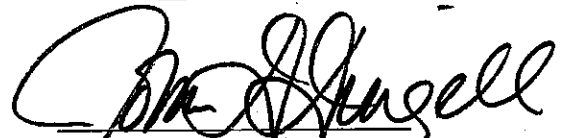

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