|  |
| --- |
|  |
| The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  Chairwoman  Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  Commerce, Justice and Science  142 Dirsken Senate Office Building  Washington, DC 20002  The Honorable Jerry Moran  Ranking Member  Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  Commerce, Justice and Science  125 Hart Senate Office Building  Washington, DC 20002 |

Dear Chairwoman Shaheen and Ranking Member Moran:

I am writing to request that you support $65 million for the NASA National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program (Space Grant) in FY 2023. 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, I urge the Committee to direct amounts to be allocated to State consortia for base grants and directs all 52 participating jurisdictions receive no less than $1.1 million each.

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 2023 CJS 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,