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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

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April 7, 2006

Honorable Dr. Michael D. Griffin
Administrator
National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Washington, D.C. 20546

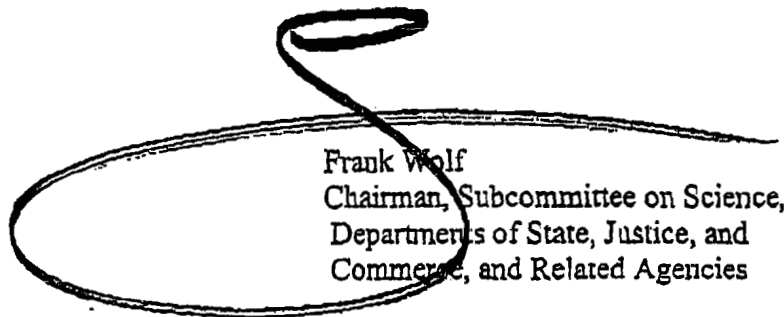
Dear Dr. Griffin:

This letter responds to your letter of February 6, proposing an operating plan for all NASA appropriation accounts for the current fiscal year. The Committee understands that a total of \$16,623,043,000 is available to NASA under Public Law 109-108, including supplemental appropriations and rescissions included in Public Law 109-148.

The Committee is concerned by the significant programmatic funding shifts proposed in your operating plan, and the difficulty in tracking these changes back to specific Congressional direction and funding allocations. The Committee notes that the Statement of Managers accompanying P.L. 109-148 specified a program level of \$912,300,000 for Aeronautics Research. The NASA operating plan allocates only \$884,100,000. The Statement of Managers specified a program level of \$680,000,000 for Mars Programs. The NASA operating plan allocates only \$650,400,000. The amounts proposed for Aeronautics and Mars programs constitute reductions that far exceed any across-the-board rescission, and that do not correspond with specific Congressional direction. In addition, the Statement of Managers specifies that NASA will continue funding for Terrestrial Planet Finder, and will begin planning for a mission to Europa in fiscal year 2006. The NASA operating plan does not include funds to support either activity.

With the exception of these significant deviations from Congressional direction, the Committee has no objection to the allocations of funding proposed in your letter. I appreciate your keeping the Committee informed of changes in NASA's budget plans, and look forward to working with you to address the issues mentioned above within the context of further expected revisions to your fiscal year 2006 operating plan.

Sincerely,



Frank Wolf
Chairman, Subcommittee on Science, the
Departments of State, Justice, and
Commerce, and Related Agencies