

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 12, 2010

Honorable Charles Bolden  
Administrator  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)  
Washington, D.C. 20546 - 0001

Dear Administrator Bolden:

We are writing to congratulate you on your upcoming trip to China. U.S.-China space cooperation is an important piece of the U.S.-China bilateral relationship and we hope your trip proves successful. Specifically, we ask your support for the U.S. and China to establish a joint-rescue capability in space that would enable the U.S., China, and Russia to rescue each other's space crews.


Few things drive interest in science and technology like the space program. As you may know, members of the Congressional US-China Working Group (USWCG), which we co-chair, were the first foreign delegation to visit the Chinese manned-space launch center in Jiuquan in January 2006. In our view, space cooperation presents an opportunity to improve the diplomatic, political, and military atmosphere between the United States and China.

As NASA develops the new Crew Return Vehicle (CRV) based on the work already done on the Orion crew capsule, the U.S. should begin discussions on a common docking ring between the CRV, Shenzhou and Soyuz. While serious security concerns exist, a joint rescue capability enabling the U.S., China and Russia to rescue each other's space crews should be common sense, and we urge NASA's attention to this matter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

  
Charles Boustany  
Member of Congress

  
Mark Kirk  
Member of Congress