

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

September 16, 2013

The Honorable Charles Bolden  
Administrator  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
300 E Street  
Washington, DC 20546

Dear Administrator Bolden:

We write to voice our continued support of NASA's ongoing effort to quickly and efficiently lease their costly, excess space launch infrastructure and other assets for commercial use, consistent with the mandates of 51 USC § 50913, Acquiring United States Government Property and Services, as well as in recommendations made by the NASA Office of Inspector General (OIG) in their February, 2013 report, "NASA's Efforts To Reduce Unneeded Infrastructure and Facilities" (Report No. IG-13-008)

Two decades ago, the United States was the world leader in commercial launches. Today, that has virtually disappeared. However there are American space launch companies that are committed to changing that. The termination of the Space Shuttle program has resulted in significant job loss in Florida. There is also considerable launch infrastructure on the Space Coast that could and should be made available to commercial companies so that we can build a robust space launch business along Florida's Space Coast. We have an opportunity to recapture the commercial space launch business, but unnecessary delays could hamper our ability to do that. We strongly encourage NASA to continue to work with private industry to find ways to use excess NASA infrastructure to recapture this industry.


In particular, we commend NASA for undertaking an open, competitive process regarding Launch Complex 39, Pad A, (LC-39A) at the Kennedy Space Center (KSC). As you are aware, the NASA Inspector General and the Agency have identified LC-39A as excess infrastructure and have no "future mission-related uses for these facilities" (Report No. IG-13-008). Consistent with the OIG's recommendation, as well as the need to reduce overhead in the current constrained fiscal environment, we understand that NASA is currently undertaking an open competitive process to transfer LC-39A to a private entity, with formal decisions relating to lease terms and duration to be determined through proper negotiation subsequent to award. Given KSC's expertise, it should be within their purview and judgment to determine what factors to consider and outcomes to render. We urge you to proceed with these plans.

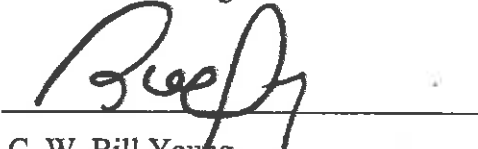
We note that NASA and KSC have been engaged in public discussions including Requests for Information and Notices of Availability, in addition to the current solicitation, centered on potential future uses of LC-39A since as early as 2009. These efforts have now culminated in this openly-competed source selection process, and KSC should apply its expertise to determine the best outcome. We commend NASA for undertaking this competition and we believe a timely decision is in our national interest.


Thank you for your prompt attention in this matter.


Sincerely,


  
Bill Posey  
Member of Congress

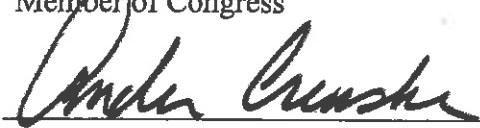
  
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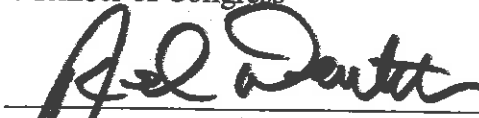
  
John L. Mica  
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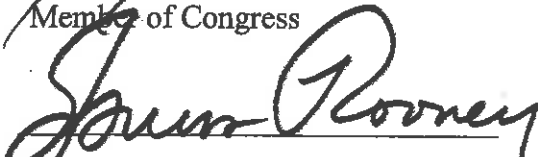
  
Corrine Brown  
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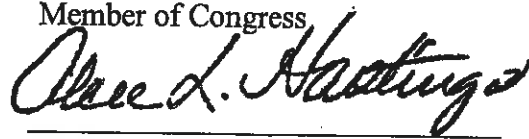
  
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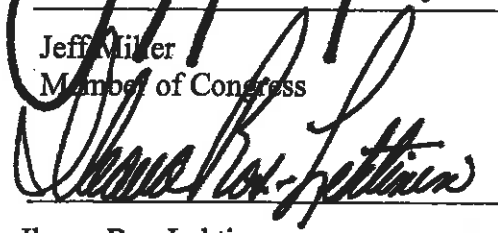
  
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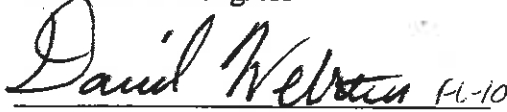
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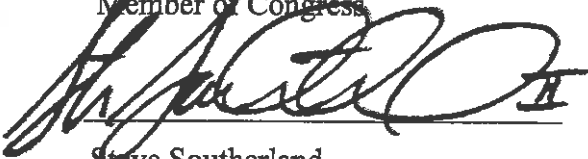
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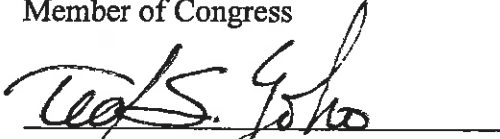
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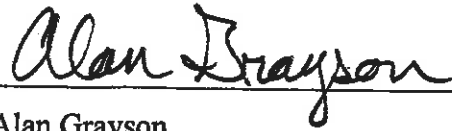
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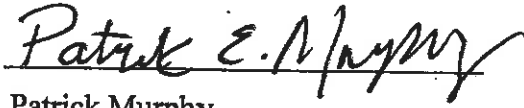
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Alan Grayson  
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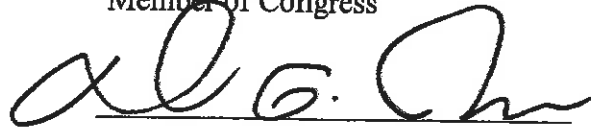
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