



The Honorable John Douglass  
President and Chief Executive Officer

June 10, 2006

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Commerce, Justice and Science  
S-146A  
The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Commerce, Justice and Science  
123 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Ranking Member Mikulski:

NASA has a long history as the world's leader in the aeronautic and astronautic sciences. While fully supporting the President's Vision for Space Exploration, we feel that the NASA aeronautics directorate is in desperate need of support.

Due to significant cuts to the NASA aeronautics research budget, the United States' role as the world's leader in aeronautics technology and production is at risk.

Maintaining U.S. aviation leadership is critical to our nation's economic health. Aerospace provides our nation's largest trade surplus (\$40 billion in 2005) and employs more than 612,000 workers across the U.S. We need to recognize the importance of this industry to our national economy by placing renewed emphasis on aeronautics research at NASA.

In the FY 2006 Science, State, Justice, Commerce Appropriations Act, Congress took the first step in reversing the detrimental decline in Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate (ARMD) funding by providing an increase of \$60 million over the FY 2006 request. The Congress also mandated that the Administration develop and deliver a National Aeronautics Policy, that reflects the critical role of aeronautics to our nation, by December. This new policy is intended to guide the long-term priorities and funding of aeronautics research. However, the President's FY 2007 NASA budget request calls for cuts to the ARMD of \$187.9 million from the FY 2006 level. These dramatic cuts will force significant changes to the ARMD program in advance of the National Aeronautics Policy. Such changes may be difficult to reverse once they are made.

Therefore, we respectfully request that your subcommittee maintain the current funding level for the NASA Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate of \$912.3 million in the FY 2007 budget. Applying the restored funds to transitional research needed for the Next Generation Air Transportation System and fixed and rotary wing aircraft, and other technologies in the subsonic, supersonic and hypersonic research fields will meet our nation's goals and ensure U.S. preeminence in aerospace.

With Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John W. Douglass', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John W. Douglass

Aerospace Industries Association  
Aerospace States Association  
American Helicopter Society International  
The Boeing Company  
General Aviation Manufacturers Association  
General Electric Company  
Honeywell  
IEEE-USA  
Lockheed Martin  
National Business Aviation Association  
Raytheon  
Rockwell Collins  
Textron Inc.  
United Technologies Corporation