

November 17, 2014

The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Director, Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear OMB Director Donovan,

The undersigned organizations, which represent a broad swath of national aerospace, academic, scientific, and public interest communities, write to thank the Administration for its continued support for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and urge robust funding of these agencies in the President's FY 2016 budget request. **We strongly support a request of \$18.79 billion for NASA and \$5.69 billion for NOAA.**

NASA's and NOAA's programs advance humanity's scientific understanding of our planet and the universe, help grow our economy, and contribute to the security of our nation and the safety of its citizens.

NASA has long enjoyed bipartisan support, with both the House and the Senate Appropriations Committees approving an increase in NASA's budget to \$17.9 billion for FY 2015 -- \$440 million above the President's FY 2015 request. Taking into account projected inflation, a modest 3 percent increase in FY16 over House and Senate appropriated levels will keep ground-breaking new science missions, exciting new technologies, and world-class public and private space transportation systems on track for success. Increased funding and smart priority-setting are necessary to maintain our long-standing global leadership in space exploration and utilization--crucial to our security and prosperity--at a time when other countries are increasing their commitments to innovation and playing ever larger roles in space. We urge that the Administration take a strong step toward securing our position of global leadership by including \$18.79 billion in the President's request for NASA.

In our 21st century economy, it is more important than ever that NOAA provide the data and insights on our environment that keep Americans safe and prosperous. NOAA's atmospheric and oceanographic programs combine cutting-edge research and world-class operational facilities to ensure that the US is a resilient, weather-ready, and sustainable nation. Many sectors of our economy rely on the agency's satellite program to deliver high quality, uninterrupted, and up-to-the-minute weather data. At the same time, its oceanographic program provides insights on our environment and the sustainability of our coastal economies. We ask the Administration to request \$5.69 billion for the agency which, when considering projected inflation, amounts to a 3 percent increase above the Senate Appropriations Committee approved level of \$5.4 billion for FY 2015.

We believe that both agencies require balanced and robustly funded portfolios to accomplish their important missions and thereby strengthen our nation. We urge the Administration to make these agencies a priority now and in the future, beginning with a request of an FY 2016 budget that that provides \$18.79 billion for NASA and \$5.69 billion for NOAA.

We thank the President for his leadership on these issues and look forward to working with you to strengthen NASA and NOAA to assure that the Administration's legacy of support will be appropriately funded in the future.

Sincerely,

Aerospace Industries Association
Aerospace States Association
American Geophysical Union
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
The Planetary Society
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research