

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2019

The Honorable José Serrano
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Commerce, Justice, and Science
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Commerce, Justice, and Science
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Serrano and Ranking Member Aderholt:

As Members with a strong interest in U.S. leadership in space, we thank the subcommittee for its commitment to funding key NASA programs. We write to specifically urge you to include at least \$542 million in FY 2020 appropriations for NASA's Wide Field InfraRed Survey Telescope (WFIRST) mission.

WFIRST will provide unparalleled views of the outer solar system, planets around other stars, the stellar populations of nearby galaxies, and distant galaxies throughout the universe – leading us to compelling scientific discoveries related to dark energy and exoplanets, and thereby allowing us to maintain U.S. scientific leadership. Currently under development at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, WFIRST is intended to have the sensitivity of the Hubble Space Telescope with 100 times the field of view, to allow us to better study the areas of dark energy, exoplanets, and galactic astrophysics. The data from WFIRST's mission will allow astronomers to answer some of the most high-priority scientific questions facing humanity, related to the origin and evolution of the universe, and the potential for life on planets around other stars.

For these very reasons, the National Academy of Sciences ranked WFIRST as the highest priority large space mission during its last Astrophysics Decadal Survey in 2010. The project is set to launch in 2025 from Cape Canaveral, and requires robust ongoing funding to meet the project schedule. Accordingly, for FY2020, we are requesting at least \$542 million for the WFIRST mission.

We thank the subcommittee for continuing to fund the WFIRST mission, and for its ongoing commitment to science. In order to maintain our leadership in space and assist in answering these integral scientific questions, we urge the committee to provide robust funding for WFIRST again this year.

Thank you for your consideration of this important program.

Sincerely,


Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress


Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress


Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress


Katie Hill
Member of Congress


Paul Tonko
Member of Congress