

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Office of the Administrator
Washington, DC 20546-0001



June 4, 2012

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf:

Thank you for your letter of May 31, 2012. I confirm that your letter reflects NASA's intentions for the Commercial Crew Program (CCP). NASA is working to ensure that we end our reliance on foreign crew transportation to the International Space Station (ISS) and utilize safe, cost-effective U.S. crew transportation capabilities as soon as we are able to certify those systems to carry NASA astronauts.

As you know, our strategy is two-fold. NASA is using Space Act Agreements to support the development of commercial crew transportation capabilities that NASA could eventually buy, and will use FAR-based contracts for the certification of those capabilities and for the procurement of crew transportation services to and from the ISS. NASA is developing a strategy to award FAR-based contracts and anticipates having this strategy substantively complete before Commercial Crew Integrated Capability (CCiCAP) award. We will continue to keep the Committee informed on the progress of this effort.

I would emphasize that it is very important that final FY 2013 funding for the CCP be as robust as possible--a conference funding outcome for the CCP above the Senate-proposed level and closer to the President's FY 2013 request is highly desirable, in that it will increase NASA's ability to deliver the safe and effective program we both wish to see accomplished. Furthermore, it is important to note that the CCP will require increased annual funding in future years to accomplish the current program plan.

Thank you again for your support for continued implementation of the CCP this summer, and I look forward to working with you to deliver a Commercial Crew Program that will utilize safe, cost-effective U.S. crew transportation capabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Bolden, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Charles F. Bolden, Jr.
Administrator

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILINGNESS
TO TAKE A RISK IN TRUSTING
OUR TEAM. WE HAD TO
MAINTAIN OPEN LINES OF
COMMUNICATION TO MOVE THE
NATION FORWARD. YOUR STAFF
HAS BEEN SUPERB!