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I am an individual that has been an employee of the National and Aeronautics Association and employee of the Johnson Space Center for some 35 years and a part time consultant to Boeing for Space Station for another 14 years. I was just shocked at the announcement of President Obama that he was killing the Constellation program which was the only ongoing manned space program the United States had and was to continue the long term advancement of technology and science for the United States.

When we started with the Mercury project in the very early 1960's the Russians were far ahead of the U.S. in all of the space exploration effort. By the time we landed on the moon in 1969, in answer to President Kennedy's charge, we were the international leaders. Now with the announcement by President Obama we are outsourcing our entire manned space travel to first the Russians and then China who is just entering the era of manned exploration.

This is going to kill the entire manned exploration in the United States and shut down the Johnson Space Center for all practical purposes, because we no longer will have a need for Astronauts, Training, Manned Spacecraft, Flight Control and engineering. While the Augustine committee gave four options the President he did not pick any of them. The commercial companies that he said is the answer to everything, have never built rockets or vehicles sufficient for manned usage. None of the firms mentioned have a demonstrated capability or reliability. It would take many years and investment of resources to gain the necessary features to be used for manned operations.

It may be that returning to the moon and outer exploration should wait for some other approach or a later date it is not even reasonable to stop a development of a new manned spacecraft and a booster to low earth orbit for cargo and crew until the commercial market can prove they can meet the requirements to provide first cargo to low earth orbit and eventually manned if demanded but not in the next decade or more.

The announcement last week will cause many thousands of jobs lost and out sourcing of our space future. The end of challenges to our young

people to strive to excel in sciences and technologies. The Johnson Space Center has many second generation employees that follow our footsteps and are devastated by this action. The real shame in all this, at this stage, is it will cost more to terminate the Constellation program than it would have to build the Orion and at least the first stage of Ares.

In addition the Senate had a requirement in the appropriation bill for 2010 that said the Administration **must** come back to Congress before using 2010 funds for termination or change to the Constellation program, yet in spite of this law, the current administration has effectively done just that without going back to Congress, except in the 2011 budget submittal.

The Congress has to stop this Administration from killing the manned space program and violating the appropriation bill for 2010.

Your action in this matter is of extreme importance.

Larry E Bell