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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 25, 2010

Russians Boast of Renewed Leadership in Space as Obama Administration Slashes U.S. Space Program

Dear Colleague:

Yesterday, in a special advertising insert in *The Washington Post*, the Russian government boasted of its renewed commitment to human spaceflight and exploration. Noting the Obama Administration's proposed changes, which effectively abdicate U.S. leadership in space, the insert said:

“NASA has long spent more money on more programs than Russia’s space agency. But President Barack Obama has slashed NASA’s dreams of going to the moon again... At the same time, the Russian space industry is feeling the warm glow of state backing once again. There has been concerted investment in recent years, an investment that fits in well with the Putin doctrine of trying to restore Russian pride through capacity.”

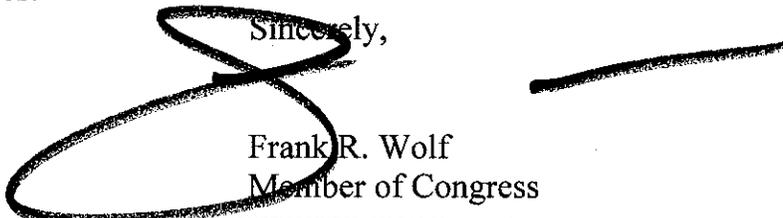
I have heard from numerous former NASA leaders, astronauts, and spaceflight experts who have expressed serious concern about the administration's proposal and its consequences for U.S. scientific and defense leadership. For copies of letters I have received from these spaceflight experts, please visit my Web site at <http://wolf.house.gov/cjs>.

Manned spaceflight and exploration is one of the last remaining fields in which the U.S. maintains an undeniable competitive advantage over other nations. I believe we would be short-changing America's future if we walk away from the bold challenge of President Kennedy who envisioned our nation as the world's leader in space.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff member, Thomas Culligan, in my office at 5-5136.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,


Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress