

PETE SESSIONS  
17TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT  
AND REFORM

RANKING MEMBER  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,  
SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS AND OVERSIGHT



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4317

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June 2, 2021

The Honorable Matt Cartwright  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert B. Aderholt  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cartwright and Ranking Member Aderholt:

As you begin crafting the fiscal year 2022 bill, I respectfully request that you give consideration to the following funding priorities:

1. Include the following report language for the aeronautics account of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration: "The Committee recognizes the continuing role NASA and university research institutions play in developing advanced materials platforms for next-generation air and space vehicles. NASA is encouraged to partner with academic institutions that have strong capabilities in aviation, aerospace structures, inspection and the associated predictive life-cycle performance, and materials testing, inspection, and evaluation, to reduce material system time to acceptance, and provide \$7,000,000 increase above the FY 2021 requested levels to advance university-led aeronautics materials research for structural applications." Support for this request could bring critical research funding into Texas and the Waco community, allowing more graduate students, research scientists, and potentially faculty to be hired and relocated to Waco to support the research effort. The research also could increase industry presence in the Central Texas area for advanced composites research.
2. Include the following report language for the Geosciences Major Facilities account of the National Science Foundation: "The Committee supports continued funding for the International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP) at the FY21 appropriated level of \$48,000,000." IODP revolutionizes our view of Earth's history and global processes through worldwide ocean basin exploration, and under Texas A&M's program management from its College Station campus, science missions increased by 20% and program costs were cut by 10%.
3. Include the following report language for the for the account of the National Science Foundation: "The Committee directs amounts be allocated to State consortia for competitively awarded base grants to support local, regional, and national STEM needs, and directs all 52 participating jurisdictions receive no less than \$1,000,000 each. The Committee allocates \$1.7 million for

special programs operated by Space Grant institutions to further the science and education mission of NASA and the states, and the remaining shall be for administration of the program.”

4. Please support and include the President’s budget request level of \$1,195,000,000 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s Human Landing System Program in your FY 2022 bill. NASA has maximized full and open competition throughout this program, with multiple companies bidding at each phase. In April 2020, NASA awarded three development agreements, with one company (SpaceX) selected in April 2021 to conduct the first crewed landing on the Moon as soon as 2024. NASA intends to maintain competition for follow-on lunar transportation services contracts, which would provide more opportunity to develop this growing industry in the 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Texas.
5. Include the following bill language for the for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in the Space Operations account: “The Committee supports NASA’s efforts to enhance human research capability on the International Station and acknowledges the increased crew transportation capability offered through NASA’s Commercial Crew Program partners. The Committee provides \$100 million to enable NASA to procure additional transportation to space from certified Commercial Crew Program providers for U.S. Government astronauts on missions as short as 45 days and as long as 1 year.”
6. Keep funding levels at the FY 2021 level and provide \$12,500,000 for Court Appointed Special Advocates in the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Account. Local Court Appointed Special Advocates serve children from 9 counties in the 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Texas, including child victims in Bastrop, Brazos, Burleson, Freestone, Lee, Leon, Limestone, and McLennan counties.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family have any financial interest in the projects described above.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Sessions". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pete Sessions (TX-17)  
Member of Congress