



March 16, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related  
Agencies  
H-310, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Grace Meng  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related  
Agencies  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole, Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Ranking Member Meng:

The Aerospace Industries Association (AIA), representing hundreds of aerospace manufacturers and suppliers and more than 2.2 million U.S. workers, urges Congress to support increased and sustainable funding for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in your Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. Accordingly, AIA respectfully requests that Congress fund NASA at no less than \$24.438 billion and NOAA at no less than \$6.087 billion, consistent with funding levels enacted in FY26.

Congress' long-standing bipartisan support for increased NASA funding enabled the groundbreaking science, exploration, and technology accomplishments the United States has achieved over the last decade. Sustained investments in our space programs have provided foundational support for future achievements and, by building off FY26 appropriations, will continue to bolster U.S. space capabilities and strengthen the industrial base that supports them. In addition, continued investments in NASA's Aeronautics account remains a high return investment in American aviation competitiveness, innovation, safety, and economic resilience. Moreover, the growth of NOAA's space and weather activities has provided vital datasets to manage interagency action and commercial operations under the Office of Space Commerce (OSC), enabling private sector innovation and services across the space sector. To maintain this progress, funding for NOAA's space and weather programs should be preserved in FY27.

To keep these critical programs on track and preserve U.S. leadership in space, Congress should resolve to protect and strengthen these programs across a balanced portfolio and ensure federal agencies faithfully execute the clear congressional intent established in the previous appropriations cycle with continued bicameral, bipartisan oversight and support.

**National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**

*Exploration* – Support funding of no less than \$7.783 billion to invest in:

- NASA’s Artemis missions and Moon to Mars architecture, which aim to send humans to the surface of Mars through sustained human exploration of cislunar space and the lunar surface. Key program elements that should be continued include Space Launch System (SLS), Orion Crew Vehicle, Gateway, and Exploration Upper Stage (should the original capability be retained by the agency), and Exploration Ground Systems, including the Vehicle Assembly Building high bays for SLS and Mobile Launcher-2, Human Landing System, Exploration Space Suits, and required ground and communications systems. These systems should be funded at the highest level possible as the nation accelerates towards immediate Artemis missions.
- Expanded Gateway Logistics Services to enable dissimilar redundancy for the provision of cargo delivery to Gateway.
- Deep space environmental control and life support systems required for meeting NASA’s exploration objectives.
- The Human Surface Mobility Program to ensure NASA is able to enter into agreements with two or more U.S. commercial entities/teams as part of Phase II of the Lunar Terrain Vehicle Services contract to develop crewed, unpressurized lunar rovers capable of exploring the lunar surface.
- NASA’s Nuclear Thermal Propulsion Tech Maturation at the highest possible funding to continue the development of advanced nuclear propulsion and power systems that will enable long-duration deep space missions. These efforts should coincide with investments in the high-power nuclear electric propulsion demonstration, as well as the Fission Surface Power program, to deploy affordable fission nuclear power systems in space.

*Space Operations* – Support funding of no less than \$4.175 billion to invest in:

- NASA’s Commercial low Earth orbit (LEO) Destinations (CLD) program and NASA efforts to enable commercial activity in LEO. Sufficient funding should be provided to ensure not fewer than two independently operated CLDs.
- The International Space Station (ISS) and accompanying transportation and research activities to 2032 and ensure there is continuous American presence in LEO during the transition of operations to CLDs.
- NASA’s Space Communications and Navigation’s goal to migrate the Near Space Network away from government-owned assets by using commercial space communications services and capabilities to provide new technology and capacity for NASA missions.
- Use of the Venture-Class Acquisition of Dedicated and Rideshare (VADR) program for all eligible smallsat launch procurements, providing new opportunities for science and technology payloads and fostering the U.S. commercial launch market.

*Science* – Support funding of no less than \$7.25 billion to invest in:

- A balanced set of activities across space science disciplines, including research and analysis programs, technology development, small-, medium-, and large-sized space science missions, and suborbital research activities.
- Decadal survey priorities, including the Roman Space Telescope, Earth Systems Observatory, Geospace Dynamics Constellation (GDC), and recommendations for increased small satellite use in programs such as Astrophysics Pioneers.

- NASA's use of commercial capabilities to meet the objectives of the Mars Future Missions program to accomplish the return of samples from the Martian surface and align with Decadal Survey budget estimates.
- NASA science and human spaceflight collaboration with the Lunar Discovery and Exploration Program and Commercial Lunar Payload Services programs.
- A new Great Observatories Mission and Technology Maturation Program to formulate several major overlapping space missions to maintain U.S. leadership in space science, the first being the Habitable Worlds Observatory capable of searching for life on planets orbiting stars in our galactic neighborhood while intentionally leveraging In-Space Servicing, Assembly, and Manufacturing (ISAM) capabilities to enable modular deployment, on-orbit upgrades, refueling, and long-term sustainment.
- Microgravity research aboard suborbital and orbital research platforms, including the use of human participants to support NASA-funded research.
- Earth science data use and applications, including leveraging commercial capabilities and partnerships to enhance data sets and data analysis.
- Continued progress on Earth Science missions including the Geosynchronous Littoral Imaging and Monitoring Radiometer (GLIMR).
- The continuation of data collection programs of record under the Landsat program and further development of Landsat Next.
- A dedicated survey mission to accomplish the objectives of the George E. Brown Near-Earth Object Survey Act.
- The Planetary Defense Coordination Office and development of a near-earth object and planetary defense roadmap.
- The Biological and Physical Sciences (BPS) funding to access research in space which cannot be done on Earth, and to enact the CERISS (Commercially Enabled Rapid Space Science) initiative, taking advantage of the growth of the commercial space industry and further expansion of BPS research opportunities.
- A Space Weather Research and Applications Program to support research to operations and improve modeling, forecasting, and prediction of space weather phenomena.
- Data science and management initiatives to expand data analytic capabilities.

*Space Technology* – Support funding of no less than \$920.5 million to invest in:

- Solar electric propulsion demonstrations; small satellite technologies; large scale additive manufacturing; ISAM; in-situ resource utilization; competitively selected technology demonstrations, and the Flight Opportunities Program.
- The Flight Opportunities program to fund payloads for research, technology development, and educational opportunities that support NASA's missions, which will allow NASA to leverage commercial suborbital capabilities to provide a pipeline for frequent and cost-effective microgravity research to be conducted in support of NASA's missions.
- The development and transition of ISAM capabilities and related services, including on-orbit refueling, servicing, and debris removal, from government-led programs to commercial led solutions.

- Leveraging Goddard Space Flight Center’s test facilities and workforce to enable industry-led technology maturation.
- Advancing Competitive Tipping Points solicitations that leverage industry investment in early- and mid-stage technologies supporting cislunar/lunar surface infrastructure and capabilities, ISAM and Martian exploration.
- In-space research and development and on-orbit demonstrations of active debris removal (ADR) technologies with a focus on near-term mission applications.
- Expanding capacity and capability of the U.S. space solar cell, panel, and array industrial base, reducing the nation’s dependence on foreign suppliers.
- Orbital debris measurement, tracking, modeling, mitigation, remediation, conjunction analysis, and collision avoidance to advance the long-term sustainability of the space environment for civil and commercial activities in space.

*Aeronautics* – Support funding of no less than \$935 million to invest in:

- A range of technology demonstrators to advance aircraft systems, structures, and engine designs to prepare for the next generation of aircraft, including the recently relabeled Subsonic Flight Demonstrator, its associated thin-wing development program, and high-rate composites for wings and fuselages (HiCAM), and cabin structures.
- Research and demonstration efforts to advance next generation aircraft engine design and technologies, compatible with alternative aviation fuels and future energy sources, including Synthetic Aviation Turbine Fuels (SATF), hydrogen, electric and hybrid-electric propulsion, compact engine cores with ceramic matrix composites, open fan propulsion, and propulsor airframe integration technologies that will lead to improved performance with reduced emissions and noise.
- NASA’s world-class wind tunnel facilities and supporting resources that are critical to the aerospace industry’s ability to validate tools and methods and to develop new commercial and defense air and space vehicles.
- NASA research and flight demonstration technologies needed for U.S. global leadership in hypersonics, including the development of endothermic fuels for High-Mach Turbine Engine aircraft.
- The Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) National Campaign, autonomy, and airspace integration research and partnerships.
- Expanded opportunities for commercial flight testing under the MACH program, which builds on NASA’s existing hypersonic efforts by leveraging private sector innovations to bolster NASA’s hypersonic endeavors

*STEM Engagement* – Support funding of no less than \$143 million to invest in the independent NASA Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) engagement and education program to continue building the next-generation STEM workforce.

*Safety, Security, and Mission Services* – Support funding of no less than \$3 billion to invest in long overdue maintenance and upgrades, including projects that will increase energy efficiency, modernize communal aging and outdated infrastructure, and protect against growing weather threats like hurricanes at NASA

centers and facilities where key ISS, Artemis, aeronautics, and science systems are built, tested, processed, and launched.

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**

*Procurement, Acquisition and Construction* – Support funding of no less than \$1.59 billion to invest in:

- NOAA satellite systems to enable NOAA's next-generation weather satellite program that enhances the nation's economy, security, environment, and quality of life.
- The use of commercial providers for satellite life-extension missions that enable continued operation of critical weather and data satellites.
- The Near Earth Orbit Network QuickSounder mission as a pathfinder to a lower cost, high performance LEO weather monitoring constellation to succeed the Joint Polar Satellite System.
- Geostationary Extended Observations (GeoXO) to provide continued development of core weather instruments and spacecraft to maintain current launch schedule and avoid a data gap.
- Commercial Earth Observation data to transition NOAA's Commercial Data pilot efforts to long-term purchasing and acquisition initiatives, with increased funding to support multi-year contracts and agreements with the private sector.

*Office of Space Commerce (OSC)* – Support funding of no less than \$52.5 million to invest in:

- Resources and staffing to execute the OSC's growing portfolio. This includes advancing space traffic coordination capabilities, efficiently licensing U.S. commercial remote sensing systems through the Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs office, implementing a clear and predictable mission authorization certification framework, and strengthening OSC's role as an effective interagency advocate for the U.S. space industry.
- A civil space traffic coordination system to support the growth of the U.S. space industry by maintaining a secure, predictable, and efficient space operating environment.

AIA and our member companies thank you for your leadership and your consideration of our funding priorities for NASA and NOAA in the FY27 Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations bill. We are available to discuss any of these recommendations at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Jess Moore  
Vice President, Legislative Affairs  
Aerospace Industries Association