



August 17, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Collins, Vice Chair Murray, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The Aerospace Industries Association (AIA), representing over 2.1 million U.S. workers and hundreds of aerospace manufacturers across the supply chain, writes to underscore the importance of sustained support for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) aeronautics research programs as NASA moves forward with agencywide realignment efforts.

As Congress considers Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) appropriations bills, we respectfully urge you to maintain NASA's Aeronautics Research and Space Technology programs as distinct, separately funded accounts as these Mission Directorates are integrated into NASA's new combined Research and Technology Mission Directorate (RTMD).

NASA's aeronautics research programs have long been a cornerstone of U.S. global leadership in aviation and aerospace innovation, helping advance safety, efficiency, and breakthrough technologies while strengthening the nation's industrial base, supporting high-skilled jobs, and enabling U.S. industry to compete globally. These programs play a unique role in developing high-risk, pre-competitive technologies that lay the foundation for innovations in advanced air mobility, commercial supersonic flight, and next-generation aircraft and propulsion systems.

As NASA integrates aeronautics research programs into the RTMD, it is critical that these core engines of aerospace innovation continue to receive the consistent attention and resources necessary for long-term success. At a time when competitors in Europe and China are making substantial investments in aviation innovation, sustained federal investment in aeronautics research is essential to preserving U.S. competitiveness and preventing strategic competitors from closing the gap in technologies that will define the future of civil and defense aviation.

AIA supports efforts to improve coordination among NASA's aeronautics and advanced research and technology programs, accelerate technology transition, and maximize the impact of taxpayer investments. Our member companies stand ready to work with NASA as it implements these changes, and we believe the agency's technical expertise, public-private partnerships, and long-term research capabilities will remain essential to maintaining U.S. leadership in aerospace innovation.

Maintaining NASA's aeronautics and advanced research and technology programs as distinct line items in the Research and Technology Mission Directorate will help ensure these critical research activities remain visible, accountable, and adequately resourced.

AIA appreciates the committees' longstanding, bipartisan support of NASA's research programs and recognition of their critical role in sustaining U.S. aerospace leadership, industrial base strength, economic growth, and long-term competitiveness. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jess Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jess" and last name "Moore" clearly distinguishable.

Jess Moore
Vice President, Legislative Affairs
Aerospace Industries Association