

March 27, 2018

Dear Ohio Congressional Delegation:

The Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP) offers full support for key NASA initiatives that will drive economic growth and opportunity in Ohio. As you begin work on the Fiscal Year 2019 federal budget, we request your support of the missions that NASA Glenn will be leading on behalf of the agency.

GCP is the largest chamber of commerce in the state representing more than 9,000 small, mid-market and large companies across Northeast Ohio. Our mission is to mobilize private sector leadership, expertise and resources to create jobs and leverage investment to improve the economic vitality of our region. We do that in many ways, including protecting the value, impact and development of key federal assets in our community.

NASA Glenn Research Center is an economic powerhouse in Northeast Ohio. The center employs more than 3,100 civil service and contract employees and has an overall economic impact of more than \$1.4 billion. NASA Glenn attracts highly skilled talent as well as research and development innovations that drive the future of aeronautics, communications, and space exploration. The path to Mars goes through NASA Glenn and these initiatives represent key opportunities to further solidify the center as an important player in NASA's core mission.

Solar Electric Propulsion

NASA Glenn has extensive experience with in-space propulsion and is considered the leader among its peers across the agency. The President's budget calls for an increase in deep space exploration systems funding, which will support NASA Glenn in its lead role in developing the power and propulsion element (PPE) for the Deep Space Gateway. Targeted to launch in 2022, the PPE will be the first element of the Gateway, and it will provide transportation and controls for lunar orbital operations, which ultimately will allow NASA to travel deeper into space using less fuel. The increased funding request for this work should be supported.

The Future of Communications

For several years, NASA has been working to advance integrated space communication technology to improve information that is transmitted from space to earth. This has tremendous implications for industry as it will allow technology to be developed smaller and more efficiently, which cuts down on costs. NASA Glenn has played an important role in space communication technology development for the agency. The President's budget provides support for the construction of a nearly \$36 million Aerospace Communications Facility that will be central to this work moving forward. The 60,000 square foot research facility to be built at NASA Glenn will replace deteriorating buildings and consolidate all the communications labs under one roof. This new state-of-the-art facility will be the place for communications and navigation infrastructure development for the agency. This request should be supported in the budget process.

Regional Economic Development

The President's budget calls for the elimination of NASA regional economic development (RED) activities. Developed four years ago through executive order, the RED initiative charged NASA centers with figuring out how they could play a stronger role in economic development. There is tremendous economic and societal benefit to the public-private partnerships between NASA and industry – these partnerships create business growth opportunities, expand research and development activity, and advance the innovations that are brought to market. NASA Glenn has played a lead role for the agency to bolster economic development partnerships in Ohio and is at the beginning stages of expanding this work – with business and civic partners – across the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes is uniquely positioned to seize greater economic development opportunities for growth. The RED initiative has the potential to play an important role in this effort by capturing more NASA spending in the region. GCP is proposing a \$20 million expansion of the RED initiative.

We are committed to working with you to capture every opportunity to advance NASA Glenn and Ohio. Thank you for your continued leadership and support.

Respectfully,



Joe Roman
President & CEO