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Montana State University 2005

May 1, 2007

Dr. Michael D. Griffin
Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration
300 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Dr. Griffin,

As members of the Board of Directors of the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, we wish to express our strong support for the new team that is being put in place for the Science Mission Directorate. As part of our Board meeting on April 28, we held an informal discussion with Alan Stern who shared with us his vision for NASA's science program.

There is no question that NASA's future budget is challenging overall, particularly for science. Thus, it is of the utmost importance to have in place energetic and experienced personnel widely respected for science and management. New appointees Alan Stern, John Mather and others will very much fulfill this goal.

As members of the community, we believe the new team will have the widespread confidence and support to be successful. We stand ready to assist in any way possible in making this happen.

Your decision to appoint these managers is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Bruce Carney
Frederic Chaffee
Tim de Zeeuw
Peter Gilman
Heidi Hammel
Lynne Hillenbrand
Garth Illingworth
Gloria Koenigsberger

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