

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

November 30, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear House and Senate Leadership:

We write to urge you to include language extending authority in the next coronavirus emergency assistance or government funding legislation to prevent furloughs for any National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and defense contractors impacted by any future center shutdowns or program limitations during this ongoing national emergency. The language should amend Section 3610 in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (P.L. 116-136). The authority currently expires on December 11, 2020.

The current authority has saved thousands of NASA and defense contractors from being furloughed. If the authority is not extended, many contractors—through no fault of their own—will face dire economic and financial consequences if they are restricted again from conducting their regular work on a NASA center or defense program and may be limited or unable due to the nature of their work to do so through a telework alternative.

As we mentioned in our previous letters on March 24 and August 4, history teaches us just how hard these situations can be on the nation's aerospace and defense workforce. Without congressional action to extend the authority, our nation risks thousands of workers with the critical skills and expertise needed in today's economy from being furloughed, or worse.

Both NASA and contractors have shared positive feedback on how the current language has provided clear flexibility to maintain contractor workforce. This authority has no doubt ensured our national security and that America remains the leader in space exploration.

We urge you to include language in the next coronavirus emergency assistance or government funding legislation to extend the authority to fund the current contractor workforce. This will help prevent possible furloughs or layoffs that will only compound the economic suffering of this emergency and endanger our future space and defense missions due to the potential loss of critical talent.

Thank you for your efforts to address this important matter.

Sincerely,



Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress



Robert B. Aderholt  
Member of Congress



Kendra S. Horn  
Member of Congress



Steven M. Palazzo  
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber  
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress



Cedric Richmond  
Member of Congress