Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

September 28, 2007

Mr. Michael J. McCulley President and Chief Executive Officer United Space Alliance 600 Gemini Houston, TX 77058

Dear Mr. McCulley:

We have been watching the ongoing contract negotiations between the United Space Alliance (USA) and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) with interest and want to encourage your efforts to reach an agreement in a timely manner. While we appreciate your efforts to achieve cost savings in the program, we also feel it is important that the workforce obtain a fair and equitable settlement in these negotiations.

Both USA and the IAM have long played important roles in the conduct of NASA's Space Shuttle program, and the nation is counting on a continuation of that productive partnership to ensure that the remaining Shuttle missions are carried out safely and successfully. A good working relationship between labor and management will be essential to meeting the challenges of the next three years. It is our sincere hope that you return to the bargaining table and work with the federal mediator to seek a fair resolution to the current contract dispute. If we are to transition smoothly from the Space Shuttle program to the Ares/Orion program, we will need the talents and experience of this workforce. It is in the best interests of these programs and our leadership as a nation that a fair and equitable agreement be reached.

The entire Space Shuttle team can take pride in its accomplishments. We look forward to a continuation of that commitment to excellence throughout the remainder of the Shuttle program and into meeting the future challenges of America's space program.

Sincerely,

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Member of Congress

Nick Lampson

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