

Aerospace Medical Association



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Association Home Office

December 20, 2005

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Commerce Justice and Science Senate Appropriations Subcommittee

Dear Senator Shelby:

The Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA) represents approximately 3,000 physicians, scientists, engineers, nurses and technicians engaged in clinical aerospace medicine, aerospace safety, and related research. Our members, internationally recognized leaders in their respective fields, have long acknowledged the valuable contributions of NASA's aeronautics research and development to their own work.

We are therefore deeply concerned about proposed funding cuts for the NASA aeronautics research and development program, particularly at NASA Langley and NASA Ames. Since its creation, NASA has been at the forefront of aeronautics research and development, and the products and personnel associated with your programs have been lauded as being central in our nation's achieving its long recognized preeminence in aviation. With such cuts, our Nation will lose critical scientific expertise that we believe will have an adverse impact on military and civil aviation safety. The U.S. military in particular has benefited for decades from the NASA aeronautics research program with every aviation asset in the military's inventory designed with the help of NASA experts. We feel strongly that aeronautics research is critical not only for aviation safety, but for our Country's national defense as well.

We strongly urge that budgeting for aeronautics research and development be restored and action be taken to ensure that aeronautics remains pivotal in the future of NASA and a high priority for our Country's national defense. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Russell B. Rayman, M.D.
Executive Director