

Dear Senator Bill Nelson

My name is Carlo Artemi , I work in a high school of Orvieto (Italy) and I am a space supporter ,member of National Space Society .

I would participate to next NSS Congress Space Blitz but my spoken English is very poor and then I prefer to send you this mail .

In my opinion there are a lot of reasons to finance the space activities and particularly NASA activities. I will illustrate only some of these , the others will be illustrated by other NSS members. First: USA is the nation leader in every fields and this , as it's said in Italy , is an honor but a burden too . To hold this leadership it's needed to be at the cutting edge of the strategic fields and it's obvious high technology fields and space fields are among these Second : scholars and amateur scientists of all countries can be involved in the space science activities I myself am involved in the American programs *systemic* and *galaxyzoo* (the former is for searching extrasolar planets and the latter is for cataloging galaxies), . Now , among these people , there can be people from very poor countries (as African countries) or from tyrannical regimes (as Iran) or from countries whose university system is organized in boss way (as Italy).Then financing NASA you can help many people also outside the USA Third:: a lot of disciplines , including social sciences , can be involved in space science experiments Let's think that you can study a group of people isolated for very long time , as people staying in the ISS or travelling towards Mars and studying these little societies you can learn much about people's behaviour in our society including degenerative .one. Well , in my opinion , and not only in mine , there are very strong reasons to support space exploration and space activities and I hope warmly you agree with me

Sorry for my English and hoping to be able to met in USA

Dear sincerely

Carlo Artemi.

Dear Friend:

Thank you for writing me about funding NASA. As you may know, I am the chair of the Senate's Subcommittee on Space, Aeronautics, and Related Science, which is responsible for NASA budget authorization.

When Congress passed the bipartisan NASA Authorization Act of 2005, it was with the goal of providing adequate funding for NASA to: safely complete the International Space Station and the remaining shuttle flights; develop a new crew exploration vehicle (CEV) with the shortest possible gap between the shuttle and CEV programs; and continue implementation of a balanced program of exploration, science, and aeronautics.

However, in each year since, the White House has requested less funding for NASA than authorized by that act. For that reason, and due to the continuing resolution for fiscal year 2007, NASA will receive \$1.7 billion less than authorized in 2007. If the President's 2008 budget is adopted, NASA will have received three billion dollars less than the amount planned under the two-year authorization act. If we continue on this President's path, we face an extended period when the United States will have no human access to space. This is unacceptable - especially at a time when other nations are aggressively developing space technology.

I will use my leadership position on the Space Subcommittee to advocate for full funding so that NASA can stay on track with an early 2014 launch date for the CEV. Moreover, I've asked NASA Administrator Dr. Michael Griffin to calculate what the agency would need to move that launch date even closer, to 2012 or 2013.

Since its inception in 1958, NASA has accomplished many great scientific and technological feats in air and space that have led to real world implementations. More importantly, our exploration of space has taught us to view the Earth, ourselves, and the universe in a new way. Assuring that our country maintains its strong commitment to space exploration will continue to be one of my top priorities here in the U.S. Senate.

P.S. From time to time, I compile electronic news briefs highlighting key issues and hot topics of particular importance to Floridians. If you'd like to receive these e-briefs, visit my Web site and sign up for them at <http://billnelson.senate.gov/news/ebriefs.cfm>