



# CITY OF HOUSTON

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**Sylvester Turner**

Mayor

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Dear Members of the Houston Congressional Delegation:

NASA's current mission includes a call for "a Vibrant, U.S.-Led Economy in Earth Orbit." President Donald Trump, himself, declared that his administration "is reclaiming America's heritage as the world's greatest space-faring [N]ation." Perhaps the Trump administration plans to lead from behind, because proposing a 2020 budget cut of nearly \$500 million moves us in the wrong direction.

NASA is currently tasked with returning astronauts to the moon within the next decade. From there, an even more ambitious program to eventually bring us to Mars. In order to accomplish this aggressive plan, NASA is building the Orion Spacecraft, the Space Launch System (SLS) and eventually, the Gateway Lunar Outpost. The most conspicuous cuts are borne by the SLS rocket. This budget proposal would postpone necessary upgrades to the system that will propel our ambitions far into the future. Shortchanging the SLS rocket will only serve to delay NASA's plan to return us to the moon by 2028.

Further, the Trump administration seeks to promote new commercial capabilities in space. The proposed budget envisions increased contributions to the International Space Station by 2025. But those contributions have yet to materialize, and a reduction in spending sends the wrong signal to commercial enterprises.

The administration has a robust vision for the future of NASA that will "enable human expansion across the solar system and bring new knowledge and opportunities back to earth." But the rhetoric and vision from the administration is not matched by the corresponding financial commitment necessary to accomplish these goals.

Sincerely,

Sylvester Turner  
Mayor