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NASA's Largest Federal Union Endorses HR 3093

IFPTE urges passage to rescue NASA aeronautics, science, and education

SILVER SPRING, MD – In anticipation of today's House's consideration of HR 3093, the Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08) Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies spending measure, NASA's largest union, the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), publicly endorsed the annual spending package while applauding Subcommittee Chairman Alan Mollohan (D, WV) for his staunch support of the NASA workforce. In a letter to all House Members, IFPTE President Gregory J. Junemann not only asked lawmakers to support the Mollohan legislation, but to also oppose any amendments aimed at weakening the NASA related provisions of the bill.

The legislation provides NASA with a modest increase of \$313.1 million above President Bush's anemic request, including an additional \$180 million for Science, \$146 million for Aeronautics, and \$66.6 million for Education. The bill also properly curtails the Administration's ability to undermine the Appropriations process by transferring funds between accounts.

The Junemann letter provided the following comments in support of the bill:

"This bill is an extremely thoughtful piece of legislation that manages to keep NASA's vital programs and key capabilities intact within the current severe fiscal constraints, as well as protects NASA's critically important workforce...Any cuts to the proposed funding levels in this bill would seriously jeopardize mission success and undermine the long-term interests of the American people.

"IFPTE believes that America's future world leadership in Aerospace R&D is linked to proper investment today in NASA's Aeronautics and Science programs, as well as its Human Space Exploration program. Should Congress falter today, America's current unquestioned leadership in Aerospace R&D could soon be relinquished as Europe and China continue to aggressively pursue their keen interests in this endeavor so critically linked to national security, economic competitiveness, and technological leadership."

Full text of the Junemann letter can be found at, www.ifpte.org.

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