

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Headquarters  
Washington, DC 20546-001



July 21, 2017

Reply to Attn of:

OLIA:JB:dac

The Honorable Bill Foster  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Foster:

Thank you for contacting NASA regarding the impact of the President's FY 2018 budget request on universities and National Laboratories.

The NASA National Laboratory is the International Space Station (ISS), which was designated as such by Congress in the NASA Authorization Act of 2005. The Agency's ISS Program supports National Laboratory activities with technical assistance, integration, and safety and operational activities (including the provision of transportation). The Center for the Advancement of Science in Space (CASIS) manages the activities of the ISS National Laboratory to increase the utilization of Station by other Federal entities and the private sector. CASIS works to ensure that the Station's unique capabilities are available to the broadest possible cross-section of U.S. scientific, technological, and industrial communities. We defer to CASIS for information about their projected staffing levels, but the President's FY 2018 budget request continues to support National Laboratory research aboard the ISS, funding CASIS at its current level, and we do not anticipate employment or research reductions based on the FY 2018 budget request.

Regarding potential job losses due to the FY 2018 budget request at universities, the FY 2018 budget request proposes closeout and elimination of the NASA Office of Education, which supports a number of university partners through programs like Space Grant and the Minority University Research and Education Project. While these programs mainly support students and their research, NASA does not know, at this point, if the proposed cuts to NASA Education would cause job losses at universities.

The Science Mission Directorate (SMD) is not able to estimate the potential university employment impact of reductions in the FY 2018 budget request for Earth Science, because it is not clear how recipient institutions would respond to reduction in funding in terms of staffing levels. Moreover, we note that the total FY 2018 budget request for the SMD is very close to the FY 2017 appropriated levels and, therefore, any university staffing reductions that might result as a consequence of FY 2018 reductions in Earth Science funding might be partly or entirely offset by staffing increases related to other areas of the SMD budget.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca L. Lee".

Rebecca L. Lee  
Associate Administrator  
for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs (Acting)