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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
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February 1, 2010

Mr. Charles F. Bolden, Jr.
Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration
300 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20546

Dear Administrator Bolden:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with the members of the Ohio delegation on January 20, 2010 to talk about the importance of NASA to the state of Ohio. As I indicated during that meeting, it is my hope that NASA will support the Air Force's request to include a NASA orbiter as part of the collection at the National Museum of the US Air Force (NMUSAF).

The NMUSAF is ideally suited to house one of the space shuttles set to be retired. With approximately 1.3 million visitors annually, and located 600 miles from 60% of the US population, the NMUSAF has identified the Air Force's space missions as their most important exhibit opportunity. The Museum is the world's largest and oldest military aviation museum and has an outstanding reputation in preserving and displaying America's aviation history.

Additionally, as we discussed at the meeting, on April 3, 2009, the entire Ohio delegation wrote to your predecessor, Acting Administrator Christopher Scolese, requesting that one of the remaining orbiters become part of the collection at the NMUSAF at the conclusion of the active flight program.

It is my understanding that NASA recently issued a follow-up RFI to obtain further input from organizations about their ability to acquire and publicly display the Space Shuttle Orbiters at the conclusion of the Space Shuttle Program. It is my hope that NASA supports the Air Force's request to house an orbiter at the NMUSAF. I look forward to continuing our discussion to ensure that one of the retired shuttles makes its home at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Your staff may contact Joe Heaton (joseph.heaton@mail.house.gov) at 202-225-6465 should your office need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael R. Turner".

Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress

CC: General Charles Metcalf
Mr. Jim Leftwich