



July 13, 2011

**Via Facsimile: (202) 224-8858
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Senator Barbara Mikulski, Chairman
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
SD-142 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Mikulski and Ranking Member Hutchison:

Since NASA's Hubble Space Telescope began its mission of scanning the heavens for answers about the mysteries of deep space, America, and indeed all humanity, has been amazed -- their understanding of the universe forever changed. I think it is fair to say that our national investment in Hubble has yielded returns beyond our most optimistic dreams, and its work will be one of NASA's greatest legacies.

I write to you today about our next great space telescope, the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). This 21st century deep space observatory represents state of the art technology and capabilities that will allow our top scientists and students to peer far beyond Hubble's current reach. In the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce Justice Science (CJS) FY 2012 appropriations bill, funding for the JWST has been, tragically, zeroed out. I urge you to restore full funding for the JWST.

Funding should be restored to the James Webb Space Telescope program to allow for timely completion and launch of the observatory, for four primary reasons:

1. JWST will help answer fundamental questions about our universe, including the origins of the universe and the origins of life, which cannot be addressed by any other telescope under development anywhere in the world. Thousands of astronomers will use this data over the coming decades. JWST, like its predecessor, the Hubble, has the potential to captivate the public with images and information about our universe, and increase interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education.
2. James Webb will put into place cutting-edge technologies that have been developed and tested specifically for this purpose. This development and implementation of cutting-edge technology, pushing the boundaries of science, is a fundamental role of NASA.



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3. JWST is being developed as part of an international partnership with the European Space Agency and the Canadian Space Agency. Unilaterally canceling this program, so close to completion, will significantly undermine important international relationships.
4. While the “cost creep” created by unrealistic initial cost assessments is unfortunate, JWST has maintained excellent technical progress and has already reached the manufacture and test stages of its development. The estimated \$1.6 billion required to complete the project in a timely manner should be provided, allowing the United States, its international partners, and the world to realize all of the benefits mentioned above.

JWST has already been the subject of an exhaustive review, by the JWST Independent Comprehensive Review Panel. This expert panel made many recommendations, which are being successfully implemented on the program. However, at no point did the JWST Independent Review Panel even suggest cancelling the program or terminating funding.

I started this letter recalling the great work of the Hubble Space Telescope. Most Americans have long forgotten that there were immense technical challenges and schedule problems with developing Hubble, but NASA and Congress persevered, ensuring American’s investment in Hubble could come to its wonderful fruition. I urge you to view JWST in the same way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Pulham", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Elliot Holokauahi Pulham
Chief Executive Officer