Date

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
United States Senate
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Office Building and Number
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

or

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
United States House of Representatives
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Office Building and Number
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I am writing to express my deep concern about the President’s proposed Fiscal Year 2013 budget for NASA. This budget calls for cuts of 20% to our nation’s very successful and productive planetary science program that will force NASA to cancel plans for its most ambitious and exciting exploration missions. The planetary science program in NASA is one of America’s great success stories, including exploration of Mars, the Moon, and the outer Solar System. Planetary science provides excellent value to America: it cements American leadership in space science and trains young Americans in both science and engineering. Overall, this program thrills and engages the public with a steady stream of pictures and discoveries from incredible new worlds. The proposed cuts will reduce the science ***return***on an investment already made by the taxpayers.

The search for life beyond the Earth is one of the most exciting quests in modern science, and this budget would mean abandoning our best prospects for answering the fundamental question of whether we are alone in the Solar System. Without restoration of full NASA funding, missions to Mars and to Jupiter’s moon Europa will be cancelled or postponed indefinitely.

I urge you to support continued investment in the technological and scientific future of America. I strongly believe that exploration of the Solar System resonates with the American people; it is something that NASA excels in doing, and something the American people support even in tight budget times.

Thank you very much for consideration of my views.

Your name, home address, and telephone number.