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 you to express my deep concern about the President’s proposed Fiscal Year 2013 budget for NASA. This budget calls for cuts at the 20% level to the nation’s very successful and productive planetary science program, which will force NASA to cancel its plans for its most ambitious exploration missions. It will cancel collaborations with the European Space Agency, slash the Mars Exploration Program, terminate the Lunar Quest Program, delay the very successful Discovery and New Frontiers competitive programs and force cuts in mission operations and data analysis for several current missions. The proposed budget level will also eliminate all future flagship-level planetary science from NASA, including Mars sample return and a mission to study Jupiter’s ocean moon Europa. The proposed cuts will reduce the science ***return***on an investment already made by the taxpayers.

NASA’s planetary science program is one of America’s great success stories. It is a program that over the past 50 years has provided excellent value to America: it cements American leadership in space science, and trains young Americans in science and engineering. Overall, it is a program that thrills and engages the public with a stream of pictures and discoveries from incredible new worlds.

The planetary science community has a consensus plan for future exploration in its Decadal Survey that recommends a balanced program of exploration and scientific analysis, tempered by fiscal realism. I urge you to support continued investment in the technological and scientific future of America as described in the Decadal Survey. I strongly believe that exploration of the Solar System resonates with the American people; it is something that NASA excels at doing, and it is something the American people support even in tight budget times.

Thank you very much for consideration of my views.

You name, address, and telephone number.