



## Congress of the United States

### House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-4302

April 14, 2011

The Honorable Charles F. Bolden  
Administrator  
NASA  
300 E St. SW  
Washington, DC 20546

Dear Administrator Bolden,

Like many other Texans, we were shocked by your announcement yesterday that the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, the center for human spaceflight research and flight control for NASA, was not chosen to be the permanent home to one of the retired Space Shuttle Orbiters. As you know, the Johnson Space Center's Mission Control Center has been the operational center of every US human space mission since June 1965. The men and women who work at mission control have supported every single shuttle mission since the very first mission in 1981. We can find no logical explanation for this decision, and request that you explain the rationale behind the decision to Congress, the people of Houston, and the American taxpayer.

1. What factors did you use in making your decision?
2. For what specific reasons was the Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum in New York City chosen?
3. Are there any historical connections between NASA and the Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum? Are there any historical connections between NASA and New York City in general?
4. Exactly how much does NASA anticipate spending to move the Enterprise from its current location in Virginia to the Intrepid Museum? Specifically, what funds will NASA use to pay for this move?
5. How does NASA physically plan to move the Enterprise to pier 86 in New York City?
6. Considering that the Intrepid Museum is located only 224 miles from the Smithsonian Udvar-Hazy Center in Virginia, where the Shuttle Discovery will be displayed, doesn't it make geographic sense to have the Enterprise more centrally located in the country? As it stands now, there are three locations on the east coast. Wouldn't a more central location ensure that the highest number of Americans would be able to visit?

It is our hope that politics did not play a role in this historic decision. If there is no rational explanation based on definable factors for the choice of the Intrepid museum in New York City, and that the transfer of the Enterprise to that location will cost significantly more than a transfer to the Johnson Space Center in Houston, we will do everything in our power in Congress, including legislation to prevent funding of the transfer, to stop this wasteful decision.

Sincerely,



---

TED POE  
Member of Congress  
TEXAS



---

PETE OLSON  
Member of Congress  
TEXAS



---

JOHN CULBERSON  
Member of Congress  
TEXAS



---

GENE GREEN  
Member of Congress  
TEXAS



---

KEVIN BRADY  
Member of Congress  
TEXAS



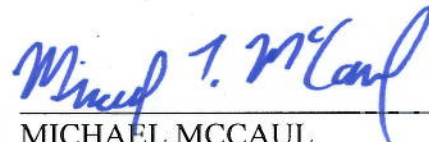
---

RON PAUL  
Member of Congress  
TEXAS



---

LAMAR SMITH  
Member of Congress  
TEXAS



---

MICHAEL MCCAUL  
Member of Congress  
TEXAS



PETE SESSIONS  
Member of Congress  
TEXAS



JOE BARTON  
Member of Congress  
TEXAS



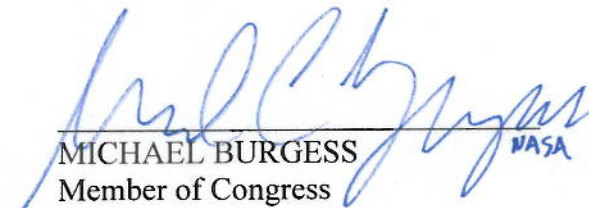
LOUIE GOHMERT  
Member of Congress  
TEXAS



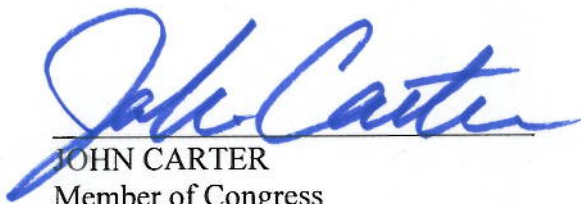
SAM JOHNSON  
Member of Congress  
TEXAS



RANDY NEUGEBAUER  
Member of Congress  
TEXAS



MICHAEL BURGESS  
Member of Congress  
TEXAS



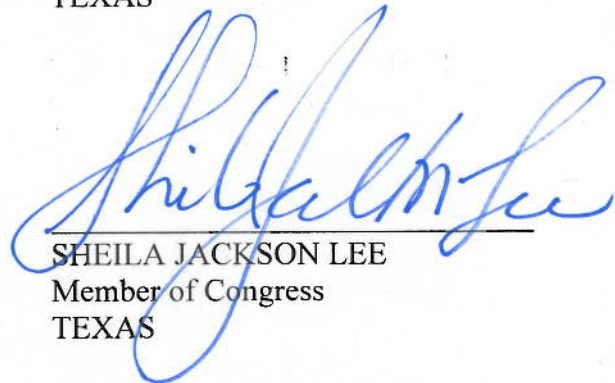
JOHN CARTER  
Member of Congress  
TEXAS



BLAKE FARENTHOLD  
Member of Congress  
TEXAS



RALPH HALL  
Member of Congress  
TEXAS



SHEILA JACKSON LEE  
Member of Congress  
TEXAS