

The Honorable Lamar Smith  
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Ranking Member, Committee on Science, Space and Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives  
394 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Johnson,

The Planetary Society strongly supports the authorization levels and accompanying language regarding NASA's Planetary Science Division in the House's proposed National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act for 2016 and 2017.

The proposed authorization of \$1.5 billion for the Planetary Science Division demonstrates the House Science Committee's continued commitment to the scientifically ambitious, affordable plan of solar system exploration recommended by the National Research Council's Decadal Survey report for planetary science. The Society is particularly pleased to see this authorization level maintained in a difficult fiscal environment, as well as language in support of decadal survey recommendations for all of NASA's science divisions.

This year, NASA's planetary exploration program will reveal two new worlds to humanity. The Dawn spacecraft will map the strange surface of Ceres, and New Horizons will fly by Pluto. Both missions took years to design, build, and guide to their destinations, and both required consistent support by Congress and the White House. New worlds await us still, and this bill provides NASA with clear directives and support for their future exploration.

Sincerely,



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Director of Advocacy  
The Planetary Society

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