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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEBSITE: <http://commerce.senate.gov>

May 11, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-146A, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Shelby and Moran, and Ranking Members Leahy and Shaheen,

I write you to express deep concern that NASA has cancelled a program dedicated to the monitoring of carbon dioxide and methane, the Carbon Monitoring System (CMS). As you know, I have long opposed attempts to reduce spending for NASA's Earth science missions, which contribute to our nation's ability to understand long-term climate trends. CMS is a relatively small investment that gives researchers the tools to analyze data and observations from across NASA's Earth science missions. Every part of the United States benefits from the data and analysis created by these missions, which provides a foundation for our ability to understand and predict high-impact, climate-related events like hurricanes. This is especially true in my home state of Florida, where sea-level rise is not a future problem, but something that affects communities across the state today.

I appreciate the committee's commitment to Earth science in the fiscal year (FY) 2018 omnibus, and especially the committee's unequivocal support for Earth science missions the administration tried to cancel. As you develop the FY 2019 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I urge you to continue to support NASA's Earth science program and restore funding to the CMS program.

Sincerely,



BILL NELSON
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable John Thune, Chairman