

**Association of Universities  
For Research in Astronomy**

Suite 1475  
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004

**OPERATING FOR THE NATIONAL SCIENCE  
FOUNDATION**

Gemini Observatory  
La Serena, Chile & Hilo, Hawai'i

Large Synoptic Survey Telescope  
Tucson, Arizona & La Serena, Chile

National Optical Astronomy Observatory  
Tucson, Arizona & La Serena, Chile

National Solar Observatory  
Boulder, Colorado & Maui, Hawai'i  
Sunspot, New Mexico & Tucson, Arizona

**OPERATING FOR THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS  
AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION**

Space Telescope Science Institute  
Baltimore, Maryland

**MEMBERS/SINCE:**

Boston University 1993  
California Institute of Technology 1972  
Carnegie Institution of Washington 1997  
Carnegie Mellon University 2017  
Cornell University 2016  
Fisk University 2010  
Georgia State University 2008  
Harvard University 1957  
Indiana University 1957  
Iowa State University 1992  
Johns Hopkins University 1982  
Keck Northeast Astronomy Consortium 2018  
Leibniz-Institut für Sonnenphysik 2016  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology 1981  
Michigan State University 1997  
Montana State University 2005  
New Jersey Institute of Technology 2010  
New Mexico State University 1999  
New Mexico Tech 2018  
Ohio State University 1957  
Pennsylvania State University 1990  
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile 1997  
Princeton University 1959  
Rutgers University 1999  
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory 2017  
Stanford University 2012  
Stony Brook University 1986  
Swinburne University 2008  
Texas A & M University 2014  
Tohoku University 2010  
Universidad de Chile 1992  
University of Arizona 1972  
University of California Berkeley 2007  
University of California Santa Cruz 1957  
University of Chicago 1957  
University of Colorado 1977  
University of Florida 2002  
University of Hawaii 1978  
University of Illinois 1980  
University of Maryland 1986  
University of Michigan 1957  
University of Minnesota 1995  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 1995  
University of Pittsburgh 2012  
University of Texas at Austin 1972  
University of Toledo 2016  
University of Virginia 2003  
University of Washington 1986  
University of Wisconsin 1957  
Vanderbilt University 2010  
Yale University 1958



The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Chairwoman

Committee on Science, Space and Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

JUN 28 2019

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE  
AND TECHNOLOGY

July 3, 2019

Dear Chairwoman Johnson:

The Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA) is pleased to endorse the Vera C. Rubin Observatory Designation Act (H.R. 3196, as amended) which names the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) observatory after a remarkable woman who made significant contributions to the field of astronomy. We appreciate your bipartisan leadership in introducing this legislation.

AURA has a cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation to construct and operate LSST, which will provide a vast astronomical dataset for unprecedented discovery of the deep and dynamic universe. LSST's 10-year survey of the night sky will address some of the most pressing questions about the structure and evolution of the universe, including: understanding the nature of dark matter and dark energy, cataloging the Solar System, exploring the changing sky, and documenting Milky Way structure and formation.

Since Dr. Vera Rubin discovered the first persuasive evidence that dark matter exists, naming this observatory after her seems especially fitting. We appreciate the Committee honoring her in this way and for your continual support of the astronomical community in general.

Sincerely,