



To: The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, Chair, and the Honorable Jennifer González-Colón
House Committee on Science Space and Technology

From: Eric D Isaacs, President, Carnegie Institution for Science

Re: The Vera Rubin Survey Telescope Act

June 11, 2019

Dear Representatives Johnson and González-Colón,

The great astronomer Vera Rubin once said that science is “imaginative, inspiring, uplifting.” As we remember Dr. Rubin and her extraordinary work, I can think of no more appropriate tribute than the designation of the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope Observatory as the “Vera Rubin Survey Telescope.” By naming this important scientific facility in her honor, Congress will create a lasting memorial to Dr. Rubin’s transformational work that will inspire and uplift future generations.

Dr. Rubin’s pioneering research on dark matter revolutionized the way we see the Universe, and her work continues to shape and guide the work of today’s astronomers. She also served as a role model, mentor, and advocate for generations of women scientists, speaking out on the need to throw open the doors of science to women by investing in their talent, supporting their work, and welcoming their insights.

Here at the Carnegie Institution, we are deeply honored that Vera Rubin chose to spend the most productive decades of her long and stellar career as our colleague. Today, Carnegie astronomers continue to build on her work, looking ever more deeply into space to explore the mysteries of the Universe.

As President of the Carnegie Institution for Science, I am proud to offer our endorsement of the designation of the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope Observatory as the ‘Vera Rubin Survey Telescope.’ I hope that every young person who learns about Vera Rubin by reading her name on this Observatory will remember her words: “Each one of you can change the world, for you are made of star stuff, and you are connected to the universe.”

Sincerely yours,

Eric D Isaacs
President, Carnegie Institution for Science

cc: The Honorable Frank Lucas, Ranking Member, House Committee on Science Space and Technology