



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON  
**SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY**

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## Opening Statement

**Chairman Don Beyer (D-VA)**  
**of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics**  
**Statement for the Record**

Full Committee Hearing:  
*A Review of the President's Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Proposal for NASA*

June 23, 2021

Madame Chair, thank you for holding this morning's hearing on the President's budget request for Fiscal Year 2022 to support our nation's space and aeronautics program at NASA.

I look forward to this being the first of many opportunities to discuss NASA and our future in space and aeronautics with you, Administrator Nelson, and I join Chairwoman Johnson in welcoming you to the hearing.

NASA has done the unimaginable and the inspirational—sending spacecraft envoys to study our solar system planets and decipher the mysteries of the Universe; developing advancements in aeronautics and innovative space technologies that push us to the cutting edge of discovery and exploration; living and working in low Earth orbit, and engaging students, partners, and the public on the journey.

The President's \$24.8 billion proposal for NASA is a strong signal of the continued importance that NASA and our civil space and aeronautics programs play in our future, nationally and internationally. And NASA's successes have made the complexities of space and aeronautics look easy. But make no mistake, they are hard. The NASA workforce has learned difficult lessons and we owe our gratitude and honor to those who have paid the ultimate price for our nation's achievements in space.

Those hard-earned lessons can serve as a compass, a compass that we need now as we face decisions on future directions.

- What is most important in ensuring a successful pathway toward human exploration of the Moon and Mars?
- What is our long-term future in low Earth orbit?
- How can we ensure that science both advances discovery and helps address our challenges?

- How can we transform the future of aviation in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way?

I have no doubt that we are all up for the challenge, and that in doing so, we will uncover surprises and benefits that will define the next century of space and aeronautics.

Thank you, and I yield back.