



July 19, 2019

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Science, Space and Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**SUBJECT:** LSST Corporation Endorsement of H.R. 3196 – Vera C. Rubin Observatory

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

Dr. Vera C. Rubin was a pioneering scientist studying the rates of rotation in galaxies. Her work led to the first evidence of the existence of dark matter. Her legacy was described by *The New York Times* as “ushering in a Copernican-scale change” in cosmological theory. During her life, she was granted many honors and awards, including the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society and the National Medal of Science.

The Large Synoptic Survey Telescope Corporation (LSSTC) endorses H. Res. 3196 designating an astronomical facility under construction at Cerro Pachón in Chile the “Vera C. Rubin Observatory.” The first tasks of the Observatory will be to conduct a comprehensive survey and create a detailed map of the southern sky. The data-set produced by the Observatory will be utilized for decades to come by scientists studying galaxy formation, objects within the solar system, variable objects, and the nature of dark energy and dark matter.

LSSTC recognizes the contributions of Dr. Vera Rubin to the scientific community and believes designating this facility, funded through a public-private partnership including support from the National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, and individual philanthropists such as Charles Simonyi, Bill Gates, and Richard Caris, is singularly fitting.

We are likewise grateful that both government agencies and the scientific community came together to make the Vera C. Rubin Observatory a reality and to honor an incredible scientist who pushed the boundaries of knowledge so far forward.

Sincerely,

Patricia Eliason  
Executive Officer  
LSST Corporation

Jennifer Sokoloski  
Director for Science  
LSST Corporation