



## NASA OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SUITE 8U71, 300 E ST SW  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20546-0001

June 26, 2026

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Valerie P. Foushee  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Emilia Sykes  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Review of Goddard Space Flight Center's Transformation Efforts (IG-26-005)

In response to your November 21, 2025, letter, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) evaluated NASA's actions regarding the relocation and closure of buildings, laboratories, facilities, equipment, and personnel at Goddard Space Flight Center (Goddard). The letter expressed concerns about the transparency of NASA's implementation of relocations and closures at the Center and the Agency's actions as it relates to maintaining Goddard's scientific and technical capabilities. See Enclosure I for a copy of the letter and Enclosure II for a list of the congressional recipients.

To fulfill the request, we conducted a limited scope review to address the Committee's five topics of concern: (1) the decision-making process that resulted in the relocations and closures at Goddard in the fall of 2025; (2) the relocations' and closures' alignment with Goddard's Master Plan; (3) Goddard's compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and Agency rules; (4) cost impacts of the relocations and closures; and (5) impacts to Goddard's ability to execute its responsibilities in support of NASA's mission. Our review was limited to relocation and closure efforts at Goddard's Greenbelt, Maryland, campus.

Our work included interviews with key personnel at Goddard, senior leadership within all mission directorates (Aeronautics Research, Exploration Systems Development, Mission Support, Science, Space Operations, and Space Technology), Office of Strategic Infrastructure leadership and staff, master planners, project managers, personnel from the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope and

Dragonfly missions, as well as current and former Goddard engineering personnel. In addition to and in support of statements made in interviews, we obtained and reviewed various documentation, including Goddard's Master Plan, capability assessments, and accelerated consolidation schedules. We also toured multiple affected buildings at Goddard.

Overall, we found the accelerated relocation and closure efforts conducted at Goddard generally aligned with the Center's established Master Plan, except for the compressed timeline and lack of construction of new buildings. We did not identify instances of noncompliance with laws, regulations, or Agency policies. However, in our view, the speed and scope of the effort increased the risk that property may not have been properly accounted for during the consolidation efforts. Additionally, communication failures, such as the discouragement of open communication, occurred throughout the process resulting in confusion related to the efforts and increased challenges to the Center's workforce. Further exacerbating the issue was the convergence of multiple events, including (1) the rollout of the President's fiscal year 2026 budget request, (2) Agency priorities for Goddard mission work and a focus on right-sizing the physical footprint, (3) workforce reductions including those due to the deferred resignation program, and (4) the delay in congressional appropriations resulting in a 43-day government shutdown.

## Decision-Making Process

The decision to initiate relocations and closures at Goddard began in 2017, a process that culminated in the publishing of the Goddard Master Plan in February 2022.<sup>1</sup> Subsequent to the publishing of the Master Plan, multiple studies were conducted to determine the future state of capabilities at Goddard. Specifically, Goddard's Engineering and Technology Directorate conducted assessments of future capability needs, industry demand, facility utilization, and the directorate's future work portfolio and accompanying workforce.

Since publishing the Master Plan, several significant changes have occurred at Goddard resulting in an acceleration of the relocations and closures outlined in the plan, including (1) budgets have become more constrained and uncertain; (2) several large projects were canceled, including the On-orbit Servicing, Assembly, and Manufacturing 1 mission and Mars Sample Return, which required a realignment of the workforce and facilities; and (3) workforce reductions significantly changed the Center's staffing levels. Specifically, from March 2020 to January 2026, Goddard experienced a decrease of over 40 percent in total workforce. In 2025 alone, Goddard lost approximately a third of its civilian workforce due to the deferred resignation program.

The acceleration of Goddard's relocations and closures in the fall of 2025 aimed to address these workforce changes, budgetary shortfalls, and shifting Agency priorities. Goddard's Associate Center Director explained that the acceleration represented a deliberate effort to move toward timely, fiscally responsible actions that save money while continuing to support Goddard's critical mission. The Center began relocation and closure efforts prior to the start of fiscal year 2026. Goddard and Agency leadership at Headquarters determined that although a government shutdown was imminent, relocation and closure efforts should proceed to minimize mission impacts. During the shutdown,

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<sup>1</sup> A summary of Goddard's Master Plan can be found at <https://www.nasa.gov/centers-and-facilities/goddard/envision-goddard-modernizing-for-the-future/> (last accessed February 26, 2026).

NASA's Senior Executive Committee approved Goddard's request for bringing back civil servants that were initially furloughed to complete relocation activities.<sup>2</sup>

## **Alignment with Goddard's Master Plan**

According to Agency policy, the Center Master Plan is a living document and nothing prevents the Agency or a center from deviating from or revising the plan prior to the completion and publishing of a new plan.<sup>3</sup> Goddard's recent consolidation efforts generally align with its Master Plan for the Greenbelt, Maryland, campus with two exceptions. The Center is not constructing any new buildings as outlined in the plan and has accelerated the timeline for relocations and closures. According to NASA's Office of Strategic Infrastructure and Goddard senior leadership, Goddard's Master Plan aligns with the Agency Master Plan's objective to invest in mission critical infrastructure, reduce unneeded infrastructure, and drive toward a more affordable portfolio.

## **Compliance with Laws, Regulations, and Agency Policies**

During our limited review, we did not identify any laws, regulations, or Agency policies that prohibited the accelerated relocations and closures at Goddard. As it pertains to actions taken during the lapse in appropriations, Center management followed an Agency-developed process to receive approvals for select staff to be excepted from furlough status for relocation activities. Additionally, the Center did not issue any new contracts or task orders during the government shutdown for the moves, and all physical moves were within the scope of existing contracts.

While the Center continues to implement consolidation efforts, our review did not identify specific instances of noncompliance with property control policies during the relocation efforts. However, multiple employees explained they were unable to account for property assigned to them in inventory records. In some instances, property was relocated without the employees' knowledge. According to Goddard officials, a reconciliation process needs to occur after a large-scale moving effort to ensure accurate accounting for new locations of property. Responsibility for this reconciliation mainly falls on the end users, but any discrepancies should be rectified when the Center property officers complete the annual equipment inventory. However, NASA waived the requirement to conduct a full physical inventory of all supplies, materials, and controlled equipment in fiscal year 2026.<sup>4</sup> The next inventory and subsequent reconciliation process will not occur until fiscal year 2027. In our opinion, considering the degree to and the speed at which the consolidation efforts were implemented, there is an increased risk that property may not have been properly accounted for during this process. We therefore encourage the Center to complete a full physical inventory as soon as possible.

As stated previously, Goddard published its Master Plan in February 2022, and while we found no Agency or Center requirement to communicate revisions to or accelerations of the Master Plan, in our view, the lack of clear communication made the consolidation efforts more challenging for the workforce. Multiple officials from Goddard, each mission directorate, and the Office of Strategic

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<sup>2</sup> The Senior Executive Committee works under the authority of the NASA Administrator, who appoints the chairs and members.

<sup>3</sup> NASA Procedural Requirements 8810.1A, *Center Master Planning* (February 13, 2013).

<sup>4</sup> In January 2026, Goddard also received a deviation from NASA policy to allow the General Services Administration to control disposition of certain excess property for the Agency.

Infrastructure agreed that communication of the consolidation efforts was suboptimal, and the communication failures resulted in confusion. For example, Goddard staff indicated that moves originally planned to take one month were abruptly compressed to four days. Additionally, Goddard leadership did not brief the Agency's Office of Strategic Infrastructure on the consolidation acceleration until November 2025, after the efforts had already begun. Additionally, the government shutdown's length was longer than Agency and Center leadership expected, which further limited leadership's ability to communicate with staff. Goddard employees also provided us with evidence of instances when open communication was discouraged by supervisors. According to Center leadership, they have taken steps to address the communication failures and implemented corrective actions.

## Cost Impacts

Within the next 5 years, NASA expects to reduce Goddard's operations and maintenance costs by approximately \$10 million, of which \$3.2 million is for utility costs at the Greenbelt, Maryland, campus. Additionally, the relocations and closures will allow the Center to avoid paying approximately \$64 million in deferred maintenance.<sup>5</sup>

The cost impacts to major projects have been minimal, and as of April 2026, there was no impact on mission schedules. The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, the Center's largest project with life-cycle costs of \$4.3 billion, reported no measurable impact to cost or schedule.<sup>6</sup> Dragonfly, the second largest project with an estimated total life-cycle cost of \$3.35 billion, reported an approximately \$65,000 impact due to a 5-day loss of time moving machining parts to a different facility.<sup>7</sup> Managers of the Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble Gases, Chemistry, and Imaging (DAVINCI) project's instruments are collaborating with Goddard leadership to schedule work in affected buildings and mitigate impacts to the project with no tangible delays as of June 2026.<sup>8</sup> There may be future cost impacts for some projects that may need to utilize a different facility or test chamber than what was originally planned. Lastly, smaller projects may have been disproportionately impacted due to their limited budgets. For example, personnel costs to move an office for a smaller project could take up a larger proportion of the corresponding project's budget, compared to similar personnel costs for a larger project. However, these impacts have not been quantified.

## Goddard's Mission Capabilities Impacts

The relocations and closures have not impacted Goddard's ability to execute its responsibilities in support of NASA's current missions. Senior leaders from NASA's mission directorates confirmed that their work conducted at Goddard was not impacted. Prior to implementing the consolidations, Goddard's Engineering and Technology Directorate conducted or supported multiple capability studies

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<sup>5</sup> Deferred maintenance refers to all the maintenance an agency should have done to facilities that was deferred to a later time, typically due to budget constraints.

<sup>6</sup> For more details on the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope project, see NASA OIG, *Audit of the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope Project* ([IG-24-014](#), July 31, 2024).

<sup>7</sup> The Dragonfly project is managed by the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory; Goddard is responsible for a limited amount of work on the project. For more details, see NASA OIG, *NASA's Management of the Dragonfly Project* ([IG-25-011](#), September 9, 2025).

<sup>8</sup> DAVINCI is a spacecraft that will study the origin, evolution, and present state of Venus to help determine whether it was once wet and habitable, like Earth. NASA has established a tentative launch date of 2030 for the mission.

and assessments. One such study completed in 2024 was conducted in conjunction with the Science Mission Directorate to determine which capabilities the Center would maintain to support future mission and portfolio needs, as well as which capabilities were available from commercial industry. According to Goddard officials, these studies involved market research and site visits to industry, along with input from senior leadership and workforce analysts.

In 2021, Goddard established a Technical Capabilities Committee, which consists of senior leadership and provides oversight of the strategic investments in the Center’s infrastructure (facilities and laboratories) that support its portfolio of technology development and flight projects. We reviewed the committee’s documentation related to Goddard’s capability mapping and the associated decisions and status for each technical capability of the Center. Of the 81 laboratory and facility functions affected by the consolidation efforts, 10 were slated for divestment. See Table 1 for more details.

**Table 1: Goddard’s Divested Laboratories/Facilities and Justifications**

Divested Laboratories and Facilities	Justification
Goddard ElectroMagnetic Anechoic Chamber	Testing capability exists at Goddard and Wallops Flight Facility, with large radio frequency antenna capability provided by industry
Spacecraft Propulsion System Integration Facility	Industry provides capability for science missions
Smallsat Lab	Utilizing industry capabilities
Nano Composites Lab	Early concept technology development not aligned with Agency priorities for Goddard
Radio Frequency Communication Lab	Capability is readily available commercially
Microwave Electronics and Test Lab	Capability is readily available commercially
Battery and Power Ground Support Equipment and Solar Array Lab	Industry capability is readily available
Machine Shop	Capability exists elsewhere on Center
Smallsat Development Lab	Utilizing industry capabilities
Electronic Packaging Qualifications Lab	Main capability (vibration testing) exists at Goddard’s Integration and Test complex

Source: Goddard’s capability mapping documentation.

According to senior leadership, these divestment decisions will not impact NASA’s anticipated missions. However, we acknowledge that the decision to divest a laboratory or facility and rely on its capability being available in commercial industry carries the risk that an unknown future effort may require the capability to maintain a project’s schedule. While Goddard continues to execute its mission, Center leadership recognized the impact that the breadth and pace of consolidation efforts have had on the workforce. As the consolidation efforts are ongoing, we will continue to review all complaints and additional information received from personnel related to and affected by these efforts, where appropriate. While we are closing this review, we may initiate other audits or investigations in the future if additional information or allegations are received.

If you or your staff have any questions or would like further information on any of the audit reports or investigations discussed in our response, please contact me or Tekla Colón, Mission Support Audits Director, at 202-358-2583 or [tekla.m.szelong@nasa.gov](mailto:tekla.m.szelong@nasa.gov).

Robert H. Steinau  
NASA OIG Senior Official

cc: Jared Isaacman  
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**Enclosures—2**

## Enclosure I: Letter from Congress



November 21, 2025

Mr. Robert H. Steinau  
Senior Official  
Office of Inspector General  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
300 Hidden Figures Way, SW  
Washington, D.C., 20546

Dear Mr. Steinau,

We write to request that your office initiate a formal audit of NASA’s management of the Goddard Space Flight Center. Specifically, we request that your office evaluate the agency’s recent actions regarding the relocation and closure of buildings, laboratories, facilities, equipment, and personnel at Goddard, including (but not limited to) the main Goddard campus in Greenbelt, Maryland. As Members of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (“the Committee”), we are deeply concerned that the agency’s actions are degrading Goddard’s scientific and technical capabilities, and that they may be inflicting long-term damage on Goddard’s ability to carry out its responsibilities and NASA’s ability to carry out the responsibilities that have been given to it by Congress. We are also troubled by the lack of transparency that has characterized NASA’s implementation of these closures and relocations, both towards Congress and towards affected Goddard employees themselves. We believe an independent audit is necessary to determine the true impact of the recent – and ongoing – disruptions at Goddard. Such an audit would greatly assist the Committee as it considers the steps that will be necessary to ensure Goddard continues to serve as a pillar of NASA science, engineering, and space flight, and a world-class research and development facility.

The United States is the world’s preeminent spacefaring nation, and the Goddard Space Flight Center is America’s preeminent hub supporting flight activity and research in space. Goddard was established on May 1, 1959, as NASA’s very first space flight complex.<sup>1</sup> Goddard’s long and storied history encompasses many of NASA’s most iconic scientific missions, from the launch of the nation’s first weather observation satellite in 1960 through the flagship Hubble Space Telescope and James Webb Space Telescope missions that have transformed our understanding of the universe.<sup>2</sup> Goddard’s ongoing work carries this proud legacy forward, as contemporary

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nasa.gov/goddard/about/>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nasa.gov/goddard-missions/>.

flagship missions such as the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope near completion and usher in the next wave of scientific discoveries in space.<sup>3</sup> To accomplish its groundbreaking scientific and engineering work, Goddard maintains unique and essential facilities and capabilities alongside one of the most brilliant scientific and engineering workforces assembled anywhere on Earth. Goddard is, in many ways, the heart and soul of NASA science. And NASA, we must not forget, is a multi-mission agency charged since its creation in 1958 with contributing materially to “the expansion of human knowledge of the Earth and of phenomena in the atmosphere and space.” Without Goddard, our understanding of our planet, our solar system, and our universe would be limited to far narrower horizons.

While Goddard has maintained its usual standard of excellence in recent years, it is also confronting undeniable long-term challenges. Many of these challenges exist throughout NASA, and indeed throughout the entire federal scientific enterprise. For many years, Goddard has grappled with tight annual budgets, a senior workforce increasingly eligible for retirement, aging infrastructure, and substantial deferred maintenance costs. These issues pose real questions that NASA and Goddard cannot afford to ignore regardless of the political context. We recognize the need for investment, modernization, and rational planning at Goddard, and we support good faith efforts to enhance its capacity to support NASA’s civil space mission for decades to come.

One such good faith effort was the agency’s Master Plan for Goddard 2017-2037 (“Master Plan”). The Master Plan was a carefully developed “blueprint for Goddard’s future” that was intended to establish a sustainable and coherent vision for the future of the center.<sup>4</sup> The Master Plan pursued three overarching priorities: maintaining mission capability; envisioning the Goddard campuses of the future; and meeting affordability goals.<sup>5</sup> It called for an array of interconnected modernization activities to take place over two decades, including the construction of new buildings, the divestiture and demolition of other buildings, the remodeling of some existing facilities, and the eventual reduction of Goddard’s footprint by 25% without compromising the center’s ability to achieve its mission and meet its responsibilities.<sup>6</sup> We cannot emphasize enough that the Master Plan, which was formally adopted in 2019, was a holistic roadmap, with each component of the plan relying on the others to succeed. The Master Plan’s 20-year time horizon for implementation was a necessary concession to the complexities of the task and the importance of acting in a prudent and thoughtful manner without creating unacceptable risks and costs for Goddard’s scientific and technical capabilities.

What is happening right now at Goddard is not prudent, thoughtful, in good faith, or rational. Goddard’s challenges are real, but we are hard pressed to see any justification suggesting a sudden crisis that requires drastic and chaotic intervention on a timeline of months, weeks, or days. Yet that is what NASA claims in order to justify the actions of recent months, and the actions that apparently will continue for the foreseeable future.

In September 2025 – with no notification, disclosure, or justification to the Committee – NASA began a sudden rush to shutter half of Goddard’s main Greenbelt campus by March 2026. According to an email obtained by Space.com, management at Goddard informed the center’s

<sup>3</sup> <https://roman.gsfc.nasa.gov/>.

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.nasa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/gsfcc\\_master\\_plan\\_digest\\_feb2022\\_lo\\_res\\_website.pdf](https://www.nasa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/gsfcc_master_plan_digest_feb2022_lo_res_website.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

employees on September 22<sup>nd</sup> that the agency planned to “initiate a series of moves... that will reduce our footprint into fewer buildings,” and that “unlike previous large-scale Center reconfigurations, which occurred over a number of years, all planned moves will take place over the next several months and will be completed by March of 2026.”<sup>7</sup> Subsequent reporting, along with information obtained independently by the Committee Minority, confirms that Goddard did indeed commence with its planned “moves” almost immediately, even while a government shutdown suspended most federal activities in October and early November.<sup>8</sup> Since the end of September, Goddard has rapidly started to disassemble laboratories, empty out buildings, and mark equipment for excess, disposal, or relocation, in some instances without even identifying a new destination for relocation on campus. One press report characterized the situation as an “attack from within” on Goddard that threatened to end with the “sinking” of the center.<sup>9</sup> Another press report questioned whether NASA intended to “quietly gut” the Goddard campus during the shutdown.<sup>10</sup> Naturally, there are serious questions from Congress, concerned stakeholders, and Goddard employees themselves about whether such activities violated the Anti-Deficiency Act.

The agency has attempted to justify these moves by invoking the Master Plan, including in a staff-level briefing provided to Democratic Committee staff on November 4<sup>th</sup>, during which Goddard management claimed that the closures and relocations of recent weeks leveraged the Master Plan. But that assertion contradicts our understanding of Goddard, the information that has been reported from Goddard, and basic common sense. It simply defies belief to argue that the recent activities at Goddard – with their drastically expedited timelines, lack of transparency, and total absence of efforts to mitigate the disruption – represent anything other than an abandonment of the carefully-conceived framework of the Master Plan in favor of a chaotic and irrational leap to reconfigure and downsize as much of Goddard as possible, as quickly as possible. It is wrong, and it risks incalculable damage to NASA’s scientific leadership.

We have observed the events at Goddard with increasing alarm since early October. While it is not necessary in the context of this letter to catalog them in their entirety, the following examples illustrate the nature of our concerns. Based on information obtained by the Committee, we can assert the following:

- Goddard management’s communications to the Goddard workforce regarding closures and relocations during the government shutdown were erratic and highly irregular. The designation of excepted activities appears to have shifted arbitrarily over the course of the shutdown. In some instances, furloughed employees were notified by the agency that they were required to return to duty with 48 hours’ notice to remove equipment or personal belongings before a sudden relocation threatened to put those materials at risk of disposal. In many cases, instructions from supervisors to employees regarding closures or relocations appear to have been delivered orally rather than in written form, eliminating the possibility of an official paper trail for these highly irregular decisions and directives. On a number of occasions, employees were not officially informed about the destination to which critical equipment would be relocated.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.space.com/space-exploration/nasa-is-sinking-its-flagship-science-center-during-the-government-shutdown-and-may-be-breaking-the-law-in-the-process>.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2025/11/04/science/nasa-goddard-building-closures-government-shutdown>.

- Goddard’s closure and relocation activities around Building 11 on the Greenbelt campus emptied out a propulsion laboratory that was mission-critical for the Roman Space Telescope and Dragonfly missions, as well as a cleanroom that was mission-critical for Roman, threatening cost and schedule setbacks and the success of both missions. Earlier this year, Goddard management had agreed to allow the Roman Space Telescope mission team to utilize the facilities in Building 11 without disruption until Roman was moved to its launch site in July 2026. The new directive from management in late September that all building closures would occur by March 2026 breached that agreement. But the situation deteriorated drastically the week of November 3<sup>rd</sup>, when Goddard employees were suddenly informed that the Building 11 propulsion laboratory, cleanroom, and flight storage area would be emptied out on the following Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. On that day, movers arrived at Building 11 and started to move highly sensitive equipment from the laboratory before personnel from the Office of Safety and Mission Assurance (OSMA) could arrive to supervise the activity and ensure proper safety protocols were maintained; management had previously told employees that movers would not arrive before a designated time, to ensure engineers could advise on the handling of sensitive equipment. A temporary cleanroom had been promised as the relocation site for hardware that had been permanently housed in the cleanroom of Building 11, but it was not ready on the day of the move; as a result, hardware had to be placed in a non-clean area of a heavily trafficked building, where it remains to this day. The mission-critical propulsion laboratory and cleanroom of Building 11 now sit empty without appropriate replacement facilities in place, introducing completely unnecessary cost, schedule, and risk factors for Roman and Dragonfly that could have been avoided or mitigated if the agency had acted with due caution, care, and patience. These actions may well end Goddard’s ability to build propulsion systems for NASA science missions.

These examples are extremely troubling on their face and portend broader questions about the fate of the center at large. If this is how Goddard management chose to communicate with its employees, what other risks may have fallen through the cracks? If this is how Goddard management decided to approach one mission-critical laboratory in one building, how much damage is being done across the entire center? If this is how the agency handles one of its most high-profile flagship missions, how many other missions are in imminent danger of being irrevocably lost? How does the loss of Goddard capabilities affect NASA’s ability to enable future missions? Is NASA speeding to implement its interpretation of this administration’s priorities, regardless of congressional direction for NASA science?

NASA’s reckless and inexplicable “relocation” activities at Goddard have created real dangers for the center and its workforce. The agency risks permanently degrading Goddard’s scientific and technical capabilities with these moves. The situation demands immediate oversight. We intend to continue the Committee’s oversight of this matter until we can once again trust NASA to be fully transparent with the Committee and to manage Goddard rationally, in a manner that appropriately fulfills the center’s indispensable role in American scientific and engineering leadership in civil space. We also believe the ongoing situation at Goddard demands an independent review by your office. We request that the NASA OIG conducts an independent audit to establish the facts, determine the intent behind the agency’s actions, and assess the

impacts for Goddard that have already occurred and may occur in the future if these actions continue. Specifically, we request that the audit evaluate the following matters:

1. Please assess the decision-making process that resulted in the agency's decision to initiate widespread relocations and closures of buildings, facilities, laboratories, equipment, and personnel at the Goddard Space Flight Center in the fall of 2025, as well as the decisions and actions leading up to such relocations and closures. As a part of that assessment, please scrutinize the motivations and intentions behind the agency's decision.
2. Please determine the extent to which the widespread closures and relocations occurring at Goddard are consistent with the Master Plan for Goddard 2017-2037, and the extent to which they deviate from the Master Plan. As a part of that determination, please consider:
  - a. The accelerated timeline of the closures and relocations;
  - b. The specific buildings, facilities, laboratories, and equipment subject to closures and relocations; and
  - c. The efforts undertaken (or not undertaken) by the agency to mitigate capability and mission disruptions caused by closures and relocations, and the extent to which those mitigation efforts are consistent with the mitigation called for in the Master Plan or deviate from the Master Plan.
3. Please evaluate whether the agency's actions regarding closures and relocations at Goddard comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and agency rules. As a part of that evaluation, please review:
  - a. How and why Goddard leadership determined that relocation activities must occur during the government shutdown, particularly those which affected or required the participation of furloughed employees;
  - b. Whether the agency's actions at Goddard regarding closures and relocations have complied with agency rules and regulations pertaining to the tracking, storage, and disposal of government property and equipment; and
  - c. Whether the agency's communications with the Goddard workforce regarding closures and relocations have complied with agency requirements for the written documentation of policies and directives to agency employees.
4. Please assess the cost impacts of the recent relocations and closures at Goddard; whether the actions have produced savings or losses for the agency's budget; and to which budget accounts those savings or losses apply. In addition, please identify how the moves were funded and any associated cost and schedule impacts to ongoing projects.
5. Please evaluate the impacts of the widespread closures and relocations in terms of Goddard's capacity to execute its responsibilities and support NASA's mission. As a part of that evaluation, please consider impacts in the following areas:
  - a. Goddard's scientific, engineering, and technical capabilities;
  - b. Goddard's scientific, engineering, and logistical infrastructure;

- c. Goddard's workforce; and
- d. Missions being overseen by Goddard, including but not limited to the completion of the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope and the Dragonfly mission.

Goddard is critical to America's continuing leadership in space. But it is no secret that Goddard has been targeted by the White House since day one of the Trump Administration. The administration's proposed draconian cuts to NASA science would strike at the heart of Goddard, and by extension, the heart of our nation's civil space program. It is crucial for us to understand whether the closure and relocation activities at Goddard seek to further the administration's broader goal of diminishing NASA science by directly attacking Goddard itself. We appreciate the NASA OIG's assistance in these efforts.

Pursuant to Rule X of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology "shall review and study on a continuing basis laws, programs, and Government activities relating to nonmilitary research and development."<sup>11</sup> The Committee possesses jurisdiction over the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, as well as "astronautical research and development, including resources, personnel, equipment, and facilities" and "outer space, including exploration and control thereof."<sup>12</sup>

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Pamela Whitney or Josh Schneider with the Committee's Minority staff at (202) 225-6375. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



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Zoe Lofgren  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Science,  
Space, and Technology



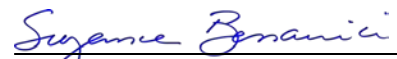
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Valerie P. Foushee  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Space and  
Aeronautics



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Emilia Strong Sykes  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on  
Investigations and Oversight



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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

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<sup>11</sup> [119 First Session House Rules](#).

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*



Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



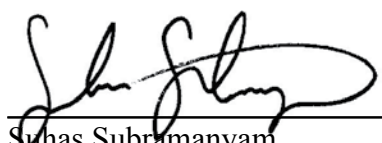
Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam  
Member of Congress



Luz M. Rivas  
Member of Congress



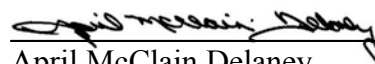
Sarah McBride  
Member of Congress



George Whitesides  
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman  
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney  
Member of Congress



Josh Riley  
Member of Congress



Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

CC: Chairman Brian Babin  
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

**Enclosure II: Congressional Recipients—**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**

Rep. Suzanne Bonamici  
Rep. Haley Stevens  
Rep. Andrea Salinas  
Rep. Suhas Subramanyam  
Rep. Sarah McBride  
Rep. Laura Friedman  
Rep. Josh Riley  
Rep. Deborah Ross  
Rep. Gabe Amo  
Rep. Luz Rivas  
Rep. George Whitesides  
Rep. April McClain Delaney  
Rep. Bill Foster