

TO SEND ON April 26, 2011

The Honorable Charles Bolden
Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
300 E Street S.W.
Washington DC 20546

The Honorable Jacob Lew
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Bolden and Director Lew:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters across the country, we thank you for your past support of environmental and climate change education and urge you to continue funding NASA's Innovations in Global Climate Change Education (IGCCE) program through the Minority University Research and Education Program (MUREP) at the fiscal year 2010 level of \$10 million in your fiscal year 2011 spending plan to Congress.

We understand that difficult choices must be made because of the fiscal year 2011 Continuing Resolution passed by Congress, however, now more than ever, we need to continue investing in environmental and climate change education for our nation's economic stability. In order to ensure our nation remains globally competitive in the 21st Century workforce and fosters innovation in America, all of our citizens, especially those living in underserved and underrepresented communities, must have an understanding of the environmental challenges brought on by climate change and the opportunities that impact our economy, health, national security and energy independence.

Underserved populations are adversely effected by environmental challenges and their issues are exasperated by poverty and preventable environmental health issues. Therefore it is vital that funding for IGCCE through MUREP continues to develop STEM (science, technology, education and math) savvy students in these communities. Research indicates that environmental and climate change education increases critical thinking skills and improves academic achievement in STEM subject areas. This investment in environmental education is vital to America's economic future.

While public awareness and concern for climate change continues to rise, the vast majority of the public, especially those living in disproportionately affected areas, remain illiterate about how climate change works, how it impacts their lives, and how their decisions and actions contribute to it. The IGCCE program through MUREP at NASA advances the critical goal of improving the teaching and learning about global climate change in underrepresented and underserved elementary and secondary schools and on college campuses. The program increases the number of students using NASA earth observation data and NASA earth system models to investigate and analyze global climate change issues, increasing the number of underserved undergraduate students prepared for employment or to enter graduate school in technical fields relevant to global climate change. IGCCE also increases access to high quality global climate change education among students from groups historically underrepresented in science.

In times of economic crisis it is imperative that we continue our investment in education. Environmental and climate change education prepare tomorrow's entrepreneurs and innovators with the skills necessary to lead in the 21st Century clean energy economy. We urge NASA and OMB to continue funding the IGCCE program at \$10 million in fiscal year 2011.

Should you have any questions about this letter, please have your staff contact Danielle Moodie-Mills of the National Wildlife Federation at (202) 797-6634. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

National and Regional Organizations:

Campaign for Environmental Literacy
Earth Day Network
National Audubon Society
National Wildlife Federation
Sierra Club

State and Local Organizations: