

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

July 16, 2010

Major General Charles F. Bolden (Ret.)
Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
300 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20546-0002

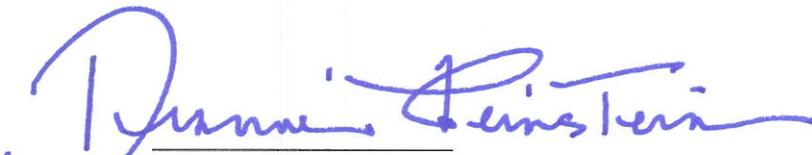
Dear Administrator Bolden:

We write to ask that NASA donate one of the retiring Space Shuttles to an institution in California. The Space Shuttle has a long history in our state, and it is our hope that acquiring a retired shuttle will inspire students and help them understand the many contributions that Californians have made to this storied program.

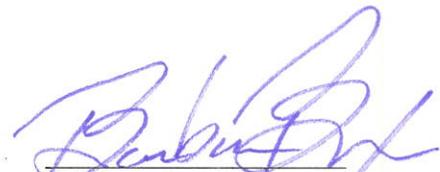
As you are likely aware, beginning in 1972, all 5 space shuttle orbiters were fabricated in Downey, California and assembled in Palmdale, California. Each of the space shuttles were tested at Edwards Air Force Base just outside of Palmdale, by NASA Dryden Flight Research Center scientists. Up until 2005, the Palmdale facility was also the primary repair depot for the Space Shuttle. Additionally, since the program's inception in 1981, Edwards Air Force Base has served as the secondary landing site for the Space Shuttle and has welcomed home 53 of NASA's 132 shuttle missions.

Thousands of Californians have dedicated their life's-work to developing, operating, and maintaining the Space Shuttle, and it would be a true honor to have an institution in our state memorialize this piece of Americana. We urge you to recognize the many contributions of California's astronauts, technicians, engineers, and physicists by donating one of the remaining Shuttles to California. Thank you for your leadership and we look forward to working with you to facilitate this important request.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator