

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 2, 2011

Dr. Frederick Tarantino
President and CEO
Universities Space Research Association
10211 Wincopin Circle
Columbia, MD 21044

Dr. Jeffrey Wadsworth
President and CEO
Battelle Memorial Institute
505 King Avenue
Columbus, OH 43201-2693

Dear Drs. Tarantino and Wadsworth:

We are writing to express our continued strong support for the Universities Space Research Association (USRA) and Battelle Memorial Institute joint proposal to manage the International Space Station (ISS) National Laboratory, and to encourage you to locate the Space Laboratory Associates headquarters in Cleveland.

Ohio has a proven track record as a state that supports innovation, entrepreneurship, start-ups, and technology incubators. Non-profits such as NorTech, BioEnterprise, MAGNET, and JumpStart ensure a wide availability of venture capital, provide entrepreneurial assistance, and advocate for additional resources for start-up companies.

A number of university-institution research partnerships in Ohio specifically focus on life sciences, advanced materials, energy and environment, and agriculture, which we are aware comprise key topics of microgravity research on the ISS. In addition, these research partnerships have developed strong ties with large and small private sector businesses currently conducting research in these same focus areas.

USRA and Northeast Ohio already share an important heritage: USRA and NASA Glenn Research Center (GRC) have had a long partnership in space exploration research. NASA GRC, along with USRA, has been a leader throughout the years in microgravity research on both the Space Shuttle and ISS, and has experienced personnel, facilities, and assets to support future microgravity payload development and on-orbit research and operations. Additionally, GRC has developed two integrated racks - the Combustion Integrated Rack and the Fluid Integrated Rack - which currently reside on the ISS. Because of this expertise, there is an existing infrastructure of collaboration and cooperation between scientific research, technology demonstration and STEM education between federal agencies, academic institutions and the private sector.

As members of the United States Senate, we understand the importance this contract would have on the work currently being conducted at NASA GRC. Locating your facility in Ohio will leverage our existing assets to create jobs and economic development for years to come.

With these facts in mind, we hope that you will carefully consider the many advantages of locating the Space Laboratory Associates headquarters in Cleveland.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Rob Portman
United States Senator