June 1, 2009

Dear Friends:

I’m sorry I can’t be with you tonight as you celebrate Maryland’s 50 years of contributions to America’s space program. The Maryland Science Center is a great place to reflect on our achievements and our hopes for the next 50 years!

From industry to academia, Maryland has been a global leader in scientific research and development, and I am so proud of the accomplishments we have strived for together. From the renowned NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, to the Applied Physics Lab, to the Hubble Space Telescope Science Institute, America’s space program has truly found a home here in Maryland.

Maryland’s aerospace industry has been a source of pride and unparalleled technological achievement for the Nation. Year in and year out, our aerospace industry works hand in hand with NASA to keep and create new jobs across this state. From our federal facilities, laboratories, business, and institutions of higher education it is evident that Maryland is committed to advancing the scientific initiatives that can literally change lives.

The aerospace industry contributes nearly $1.6 billion direct funding per year to Maryland’s economy. There are nearly 10,000 Marylanders working in jobs supporting America’s space program who help us study our universe and our own planet. Their work provides crucial clues for solving many global environmental problems.

America needs to be daring and bold and I am committed to fighting for the critical space programs that are the hallmarks of our success and continually benefit our state’s high-tech economy. I’m so proud of Maryland’s contributions – past, present, and future. I will continue to fight to keep Maryland at the forefront of scientific achievement.

Forward together!

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator