



*June Scobee Rodgers, Ph.D.
Founding Chairman*

March 4, 2011

The Honorable Charles F. Bolden, Jr.
Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
300 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20546

Dear Charles,

I am writing to express my support of the Brazos Valley Shuttle Project and the efforts underway to secure one of the three remaining retired shuttle orbiters for display in a newly constructed museum of science and history in the Brazos Valley. I appreciate any attention and consideration that you may give this request.

The Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History in cooperation with Texas A&M University is proposing an expansion of their museum, to be renamed the Brazos Valley Museum of Science and History. A retired space shuttle and a Challenger Center would be the centerpiece of this new facility. The Museum also has the support of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum, and President George H.W. Bush has spoken out in favor of the project.

Exciting things are happening in the Brazos Valley. The synergistic effects on science education in Texas resulting from a Museum partnering with a major university, a developing biocorridor, and new efforts in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education will be enormous.

I am confident that this new Museum, centrally located within Texas and our Nation, will not only successfully highlight the history and accomplishments of the Space Shuttle program, but will also educate and inspire future generations in science and space exploration. Also, as a space-grant university, Texas A&M proudly maintains this distinguished designation and has the highest regard for National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) research and accomplishments. Furthermore, in partnership with Texas A&M, area community leaders are fully committed to securing and enhancing critical investments necessary to prepare for this venture.

It is my hope that NASA will select Texas A&M and the Brazos Valley as home to a retired shuttle orbiter. The state of Texas and this space grant university have a long history with space flight and a deep connection to NASA and the Space Shuttle program. I am certain that if chosen to house one of these retired shuttles, not only will it be properly care for and displayed, but will be cherished, respected and honored by the people of the Brazos Valley.

Again, thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if I can ever be of service to you.

Sincerely,

June Scobee Rodgers