



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

JAMES RAJOTTE, M.P.

EDMONTON - LEDUC

OTTAWA
May 30, 2006

The Honourable Maxime Bernier, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Industry
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Maxime

Dear Mr. ~~Minister~~,

I am writing to you with regards to the Long Range Plan for Astronomy and Astrophysics.

I have received a letter from the Coalition for Canadian Astronomy (CCA) explaining its Long Range Plan and asking for support for government funding over the next seven years. They are asking for funding from the Federal Government in the amount of \$235 million in total. The benefits cited include Canada's leadership role in the field of international astronomy, and the academic and economic gains from research and innovation.

I have enclosed a copy of the relevant correspondence and would like to know whether you think we should support this funding request on the part of the CCA. In addition, if you are considering modifications or alternatives to this proposal, please let me know.

Yours truly,

James Rajotte

James Rajotte, M.P.
Edmonton-Leduc

JR/fr

Minister of Industry



Ministre de l'Industrie

Maxime Bernier

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H5

AUG 25 2006

Mr. James Rajotte, M.P.
Chair
House of Commons Standing Committee on
Industry, Science and Technology
Room 404, Justice Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Colleague:

Thank you for your letter of May 30, 2006, with which you enclosed correspondence from the Coalition for Canadian Astronomy concerning the Long Range Plan (LRP) for Astronomy and Astrophysics. I regret the delay in replying to you.

As you know, the Government of Canada recognizes the importance of continued investment in university research, and Budget 2006 committed increased funding of \$200 million over two years to the Granting Councils and the Canada Foundation for Innovation.

To date, the National Research Council has provided approximately \$56 million to support the LRP for Astronomy and Astrophysics. I am aware of the funding request of \$235 million to complete the remaining elements of the LRP. At this time, a decision on support for this proposal has not been taken and no suggestion has been made to modify the proposal. While consideration of how to address such a proposal could be given in the context of the forthcoming federal science and technology strategy, it is not clear that funding sources will exist at that time.

Once again, thank you for conveying the Coalition's views on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maxime Bernier'.

Maxime Bernier

Canada