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April 18, 2012

Via Electronic Transmission

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

Dear Administrator Bolden:

Recently my office received serious allegations from whistleblowers regarding the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Ames Research Center (ARC) in California and its current director Simon P. Worden. These allegations came to my office from individuals who are concerned about the direction of the ARC under Mr. Worden's leadership.

Specifically, it has been alleged that in recent years Director Worden allowed foreign nationals to access this facility. These foreign nationals have allegedly obtained NASA secrets and cutting edge technology while not possessing the proper clearance in violation of International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR). After the foreign nationals accessed this information it is possible they shared this sensitive and classified information with foreign entities.

Further, my office received information that federal law enforcement has opened investigations into several employees at the ARC, including Director Worden, the director of ARC programs Alan Weston, and foreign nationals. These opened investigations apparently involve issues related to ITAR violations and national security.

Therefore, in order to gain a more complete understanding of Mr. Worden's activities at the ARC, I request that you arrange for my staff to be briefed by knowledgeable NASA officials by no later than April 27, 2012. Please contact Brian Downey or Rob Donovan of my staff at (202) 224-5225 to schedule the briefing.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member