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GOLDIN'S RESPONSE TO THE CBO REPORT

NASA will not back away from the Administration's balanced aeronautics and space program. Nor will we lose the courage to conduct the kind of program the American public wants -- lean, bold and visionary. Unfortunately, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report would sacrifice both the balance and boldness. The report takes a defeatist approach and sends a chilling message to any government agency that dares reinvent itself that dares give the taxpayer effectiveness, efficiency and creativity.

NASA has led the way in stepping up to the Federal budget challenge -- no agency has taken deeper percentage cuts than we have. Yet we still send men and women to live and work in space. We send spacecraft to explore the heavens. We monitor critical environmental conditions. We are building an international outpost for humans in space. And NASA's vibrant aeronautics program will take American aviation on top in an increasingly competitive global environment.

Any of the three alternatives put forth in the CBO report would destroy the essential balance between human space flight, space science and leading-edge aeronautics. And the CBO report would destroy the dream President Kennedy began more than 30 years ago. They also fail to factor in the tremendous termination and transition costs associated with shutting down a major portion of the space program, not to mention the potential for enormous economic dislocation.

NASA can accomplish bold, daring and difficult missions on a tight budget -- we proved that again with the Hubble rescue mission. We fixed the Hubble on time and under budget, and it's performing beyond our greatest expectations. As I said when the NASA budget for next year was announced: "This is it. We've cut to the bone. We cannot accept further budget cuts."

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