



Campbell

June 13, 2014

Cupertino

Gilroy

Los Altos

Hon. Dianne Feinstein

Los Altos Hills

One Post Street, Suite 2450

San Francisco, CA 94104

Los Gatos

Milpitas

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Monte Sereno

On behalf of the Cities Association of Santa Clara County, I write to you to express support for the continuation of funding for the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) program.

Morgan Hill

Mountain View

Palo Alto

As you know, SOFIA is a powerful new ship in NASA's research fleet that just started making science observations in 2010. Through the international collaboration between NASA and Germany's Space Agency (DLR), SOFIA is the largest flying astronomical observatory in the world and enables both scientific discovery and public engagement. Aboard SOFIA astronomers can conduct comprehensive investigations of diverse cosmic environments and collect data for understanding all parts of the great story of the evolution of the Universe. Educators, young scientists-in-training, and journalists are united and fly on SOFIA, making it a valuable ambassador to the public and training platform at a time when our continued national and economic security calls for improvements in scientific literacy.

San Jose

Santa Clara

Saratoga

Sunnyvale

The Cities Association, a collaboration of the 15 cities of Santa Clara County, advocates for positive action to enhance the quality of life for the people of our county. Based locally in California at the NASA Ames Research Center at Moffett Field, SOFIA provides vital science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education for our communities and fosters global collaboration and innovation. As cities that represent Silicon Valley, we highly value innovation and STEM education and recognize that eliminating the funding of SOFIA would be a detriment to the advancement of science in our communities and the nation.

We would greatly appreciate your support for the continuation of funding for the SOFIA program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Tate". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Steve Tate

President, Cities Association of Santa Clara County

Mayor, City of Morgan Hill

CC: Cities Association Board of Directors, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, Congressman Sam Farr  
Congressman Mike Honda, Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren