To: Patrick Slane, CXC Director Stephen O'Dell, Project Scientist Andrew Schnell, Project Manager

Re: Proposed cuts to NASA Astrophysics

As the latest reporting indicates, the "<u>skinny budget</u>" released by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) would effectively end science as we know it at NASA, including the operation of the *Chandra X-ray Observatory*.

As you know, NASA funding is set by Congress, and we feel it is **urgent and important** to make Congress aware that the cuts proposed by OMB would amount to a catastrophic and irreversible waste of taxpayer investment and guarantee that NASA cedes its leadership in X-ray astrophysics and causes broad and long-term damage to U.S. scientific leadership, talent retention, and innovation.

Our understanding is that you are restricted in your communications with Congress. However, many members of the CUC and the larger Chandra community have no such restrictions.

We are writing to make you aware that we are **immediately** undertaking such efforts. We are making ourselves and materials <u>available to the *Chandra* community</u> to help in their efforts.

Sincerely, The Chandra Users' Committee

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