



October 9, 1992

This past week, President Bush signed the 1993 NASA budget, which includes a \$4 million appropriation for the Kansas Cosmosphere & Space Center. This allocation represents not only a major milestone in the developing history of the Cosmosphere, but it further demonstrates the level of national credibility it has attained. The Cosmosphere's appropriation is the first major grant of its type given by the space agency, in its 35 year history, to a non-NASA agency. By doing so, NASA has recognized the Kansas Cosmosphere as a national resource for public space science education.


The appropriation for the Cosmosphere will bring further educational and economic assets to Hutchinson, and Kansas, and will be done without additional burden to the taxpayer. NASA's budget for 1993 is virtually unchanged from the current year. This means that the \$4 million Cosmosphere appropriation had to be taken from an existing NASA program. No new taxes were charged to fund it.

To plow such uncharted political territory required a great deal of help from many dedicated people. The allocation received strong bipartisan support. It was carried through the trenches of the Senate Appropriations Committee by Democratic Senator Barbara Mikulski from Maryland and Republican Senator Jake Garn of Utah. Both Senator Garn and NASA Administrator Dan Goldin became strong supporters of the Cosmosphere after they made a personal trip to Hutchinson earlier this year to inspect the facility.

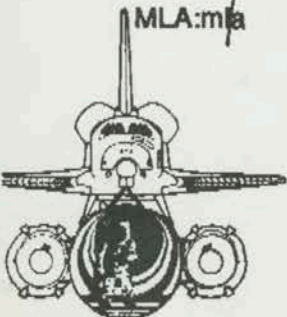
Our greatest appreciation must be extended to the work that our own Senator Bob Dole, and his staff, did in helping orchestrate the Cosmosphere appropriation. His guidance, knowledge, and experience were paramount in getting this complex legislation through Congress and to the President's desk for signing. When the opportunity to bring some of NASA's education dollars to Kansas became available, Bob Dole did what a Senator representing the interests of Kansas should do. He represented Kansas.

In addition, we need to also extend our appreciation to Congressman Pat Roberts, and his staff, for helping move the appropriation through the House side. Even though Congressman Roberts does not yet officially represent the Hutchinson area, his quality work on this project has provided a good preview of his potential representation.

With the NASA allocation, the Cosmosphere has now raised a total of \$8 million dollars toward its planned \$12.7 million expansion. For that, we have many people to thank - here at home as well as in Washington, D.C. Thanks to the contributions and efforts of these people, we can now say we definitely have "lift-off." With \$4.7 million left to raise to complete the Cosmosphere's expansion, however, we have not achieved "orbit" yet. The dream continues.....


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