



**So saveWebber, you live in Alabama's 4th District.**

**Here's what you need to know:**

Your House Representative, **Robert Aderholt**, is a member of the [US House Appropriations Committee on Commerce, Justice and Science](#).

*Congressional District 4*



**4** Congressional District  
*Cullman* County



*Alabama (7 Districts)*

Representative Aderholt, along with several other members of the [House Subcommittee for Commerce, Justice, and Science](#), control the purse strings for the James Webb Space Telescope. If you want the JWST to fly, you will need to contact him personally.

Our sources on Capitol Hill say a handwritten letter will go the furthest as far as getting your Congressperson’s attention. Phone calls fall in second and emails come in third. So please take a few minutes to write and send this massively important letter.

**Representative Aderholt needs to know that you live in his district and that you feel that JWST should fly. If you don't tell him, he won't know how you feel.** Now, we’re not asking you to write him an entire book; any length—a few sentences or paragraphs—would be wonderful. And if you don’t have the time to write a letter and mail it, give his office a call or send him an email. If you are feeling especially geared for battle, DO ALL THREE!

Here's his Contact Information: [Congressional Website](#) [Facebook](#) [Email](#)

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**Don't quite know what to say?** Here are some talking points provided by firstgalaxies.org, which can be found [on this website](#):

The impacts are numerous if JWST is terminated:

1. termination is inconsistent with the substantial progress that is being made on technical developments, management changes and improved oversight and working relationships with the key aerospace contractors. The 18 beryllium flight mirror segments for the JWST mirror have completed

2. polishing and their cryogenic performance is being demonstrated to be excellent. Roughly 75% of all the hardware for JWST has been delivered or is in final fabrication. Revised and more realistic test programs are in place with major changes to the management and oversight.
3. termination is very damaging for future astronomy and astrophysics scientific productivity and for the pre-eminence of US science;
4. termination would result in no observatory-class mission to carry out broadly-based research when the current Great Observatories reach end-of-life;
5. termination undercuts the Decadal Survey process since it was the top ranked program in the prior 2000 Decadal Survey, and it is identified numerous times in the 2010 Decadal Survey as a foundational program for future astrophysics research;
6. termination of JWST, as the natural successor to Hubble, would result in the loss, once Hubble fails, of a very large part of the remarkable public interest that astronomy has enjoyed;
7. termination would eliminate a major source of inspirational science education and outreach results, particularly for the interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) that comes from the high profile HST and JWST science results;
8. termination would reduce the strength and visibility world-wide of the US science program, not just astrophysics;
9. termination would reduce US credibility as an international partner given the Canadian and European partnership on JWST and their substantial contributions to the program;

10. termination of JWST, following on from the termination of the SSC (Superconducting Super Collider), would send the message that the US is relinquishing leadership in major science projects -- it will be very
11. difficult to start any other major science project or mission;
  
12. termination would eliminate the broadly-based research funding for the community that results from the Great Observatory-class missions if none are operating, and greatly reduces opportunities for undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate education;

It is essential that we make our voices heard. It is particularly crucial that we each act quickly and write, email, fax, or call our local House Representatives and also contact our Senators. The loss of JWST will affect us all. It will damage the prospects for Astronomy for a decade or more and severely impact our ability to carry out the vision outlined in the current Decadal Survey.

***Please feel free to adapt any of the above points into your own words, and please include anything you can think of to strengthen the argument of this letter!***

**Let's Save this Telescope!**