



July 25, 2007

Dear CSEWI Board Members,

This letter is to inform you about Space Science Outreach and Research (SSOAR) and its two charter schools in Oakland, known as The Space Exploration Academies. Opened in 2006, these schools serve underprivileged, minority junior high and high school students. The schools use a space theme throughout the curricula to motivate students and to help gear their interests towards science and math. CSA has long been a supporter of such thematic schools and small learning environments.

Unfortunately, the schools have come up against negative attitudes towards charter schools from within the Oakland School District. **There is a threat that the schools will be closed.** The issues surrounding the fight between SSOAR and the school district are convoluted and procedural errors by the district may well have occurred. CSA would like your voice of support for the schools. Without referencing the debate between SSOAR and the school district, it's important for the space enterprise community to express its support for small, science-focused academies.

A letter from your organization will be very effective in showing the broad support these types of school venues have amongst industry leaders. I have included a suggested letter of support and some background information for your use. Please take a look at this material and send in your letter of support as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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