

3400 Rosemary Lane
Hyattsville, MD 20782
August 22, 2011

Thomas Feyer
Letters to the Editor
The New York Times
620 Eighth Avenue
New York, NY 10018
letters@nytimes.com

Dear Mr. Feyer:

I am submitting the following letter on behalf of the 32 Nobel Prize winners (including me) listed below. I read your instructions on the Times web site and the actual text of our letter is 150 words long as you recommend, but the list of signers is much longer. I note that you also require a letter to be submitted within 7 days of the Times article; needless to say it takes a little while to obtain the support of 32 Nobelists!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Mather". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John C. Mather

In reference to the NY Times editorial entitled "Way Above the Shuttle Flight", on July 9th, 2011, and frequent columns and letters regarding the future of NASA and space exploration:

The James Webb Space Telescope is the natural successor to the iconic Hubble Space Telescope, reaching well beyond Hubble's limits, revealing secrets even Hubble cannot. From seeing the first galaxies in the universe, to studying extrasolar planets with liquid water, JWST will provide humanity with new insights on the origin of the cosmos, and on our place within it.

The discoveries of JWST will be the source of awe and inspiration for the next generation. Cancellation of JWST would deal a fatal blow to large and ambitious space science missions for the foreseeable future, and would deny the public access to new and exciting images of the type that have captured the imagination of people of all ages.

We support careful oversight over the future plans and budgets of the JWST mission, and we believe that every possible effort should be made to launch JWST as early as possible.

Signed by 32 Nobel Prize winners:

Peter Agre, Nobel Laureate, Chemistry 2003
Sidney Altman, Nobel Laureate, Chemistry 1989
Robert Aumann, Nobel Laureate, Economics 2005
Elizabeth Blackburn, Nobel Laureate, Physiology or Medicine 2009
Günter Blobel, Nobel Laureate, Physiology or Medicine 1999
Mario Capecchi, Nobel Laureate, Physiology or Medicine 2007
Thomas Cech, Nobel Laureate, Chemistry 1989
Martin Chalfie, Nobel Laureate, Chemistry 2008
James W. Cronin, Nobel Laureate, Physics 1980
Johann Deisenhofer, Nobel Laureate, Chemistry 1988
Val Fitch, Nobel Laureate, Physics, 1980
Riccardo Giacconi, Nobel Laureate, Physics 2002
Roy J. Glauber, Nobel Laureate, Physics 2005
Sheldon Glashow, Nobel Laureate, Physics 1979
Joseph L. Goldstein, Nobel Laureate, Physiology or Medicine 1985
David J. Gross, Nobel Laureate, Physics 2004
Carol W. Greider, Nobel Laureate, Physiology or Medicine 2009

John L. Hall, Nobel Laureate, Physics 2005
Russell A. Hulse, Nobel Laureate, Physics 1993
Roger D. Kornberg, Nobel Laureate, Chemistry 2006
Roderick MacKinnon, Nobel Laureate, Chemistry 2003
John C. Mather, Nobel Laureate, Physics 2006
Craig Mello, Nobel Laureate, Physiology or Medicine 2006
Douglas D. Osheroff, Nobel Laureate, Physics 1996
William D. Phillips, Nobel Laureate, Physics, 1997
Phillip Sharp, Nobel Laureate, Physiology or Medicine 1993
Hamilton Smith, Nobel Laureate, Physiology or Medicine 1978
George F. Smoot, Nobel Laureate, Physics, 2006
Thomas A. Steitz, Nobel Laureate, Chemistry 2009
Jack W. Szostak, Nobel Laureate, Physiology or Medicine 2009
Steven Weinberg, Nobel Laureate, Physics 1979
Frank Wilczek, Nobel Laureate, Physics 2004