

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4704

May 19, 2015

LIGO Hanford Observatory
127124 North Route 10
Richland, WA 99354

To the dedicated specialists, engineers, technicians, scientists, and staff of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory:

I regret that legislative business in Washington, D.C., prevented me from joining you today. Please accept my sincere congratulations on the dedication of the Advanced Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) located in Hanford, Washington. The Advanced LIGO program, which has placed upgraded detector subsystems into the site's existing infrastructure, will extend the reach of LIGO by a factor of 10 and provide a one thousand-fold increase in the number of galaxies searched for gravitational wave signals. These detectors, installation of which began in 2008 and was completed this year, represent the most sensitive instruments on earth, capable of resolving distortions that are a billion times smaller than an atom, and are a true testament to the extraordinary science and achievement taking place at the LIGO Hanford Observatory.

LIGO's science education and teacher professional development programs reach more than 20,000 people each year in the Pacific Northwest and Gulf Coast regions. Thank you for your continued efforts and your ongoing commitment to science, innovation, exploration and the community – best wishes for continued success!

Sincerely,



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress

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