

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

Reply to
Attn of: SMD/DAAR

OCT 25 2019

Dr. Margaret Kivelson
Chair, Space Studies Board
National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine
500 5th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Dr. Kivelson:

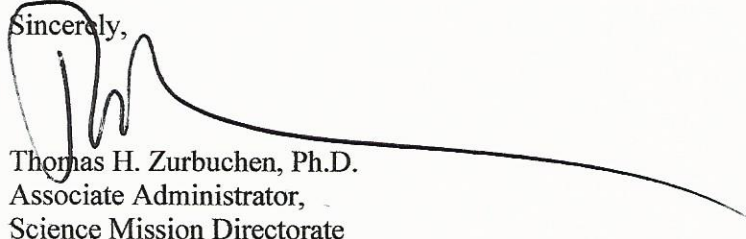
I would like to express my appreciation for the September 2018 delivery of the report "Open Source Software Policy Options for NASA Earth and Space Sciences." I thank you and the members of the Study Team for their hard work and diligence in preparing such a clear and comprehensive assessment of such an important topic that represents the future of how we think about scientific data. Please express my appreciation to the Co-Chairs, Dr. Chelle Gentemann and Mr. Mark Parsons, the Study Director, Dr. Abigail Sheffer, and to all of the volunteers and staff who worked to bring this complex and comprehensive project to such a successful conclusion.

The Science Mission Directorate has long recognized value of its scientific data and is in the process of developing a five-year strategy to modernize our data and computing resources. The end goal of such a strategy is to leverage advances in this rapidly evolving field to enable increased scientific discovery. The analysis and guidance provided in the Report represents valuable input to this process, and the finding and recommendations provide a foundation upon which we are building this strategy by affirming the importance of open source software to future scientific discoveries. Specifically, the report recommends a series of nine actions that NASA should undertake to implement an open source software policy for the scientific community. We intend to apply such clear policy direction across the entire NASA Science portfolio as we implement the strategy and particularly appreciate the thoughtful recommendations on how to do so in a manner that develops the entire science community.

The final strategy will be available later this year and I look forward to sharing it with you at a future meeting.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Ellen Gertsen, who can be reached at (202) 358-0812 or at ellen.gertsen@nasa.gov, with any questions.

Sincerely,


Thomas H. Zurbuchen, Ph.D.
Associate Administrator,
Science Mission Directorate