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## TEXAS SPACE COMMISSION

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June 12, 2026

Ms. Nora Velasco  
Deputy Director  
Legislative Budget Board  
P.O. Box 12666  
Austin, Texas 78711-2666

Dear Ms. Velasco:

Pursuant to Section 482.302, Government Code, the Texas Space Commission (Commission) must provide written notification to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) not later than the thirtieth day after a grant award is made from the Space Exploration & Aeronautics Research Fund (SEARF) [Fund #1203, Manual of Accounts – Texas Comptroller’s Office].

Accordingly, this letter serves as notice to the LBB that the Commission has made a grant in an amount of up to \$14,154,767.00 to Rice University for costs related to research and development as well as equipment.

Specifically, this award will fund the creation of a Center for Space Technologies within the Rice Space Institute as well as a consortium of universities and commercial partners to perform targeted research and development, technology transfer and innovation, cross-sector collaboration, state-wide partnerships, workforce training and space-focused education. Both parties fully executed a Grant Agreement dated 11 June 2026.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 512-463-8575 or [Norman.Garza@space.texas.gov](mailto:Norman.Garza@space.texas.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Norman R. Garza, Jr." in a cursive script.

Norman R. Garza, Jr.  
Executive Director

cc: KJ Curtiss, Budget Analyst, Legislative Budget Board  
Turner Brown, Chief Compliance Officer, Texas Space Commission  
Suzanne Johnson, Director of Administration, Office of the Governor  
Warren Collier, Director of Financial Services, Office of the Governor