

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 style with a large, prominent "J" and "M".

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