

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-5400**

September 9, 2022

Honorable Sethuraman Panchanathan  
Director  
U.S. National Science Foundation  
2415 Eisenhower Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Director Panchanathan:

We write to respectfully inquire about the plans for an upcoming cooperative agreement for operations and management of the Arecibo Observatory (AO) in Puerto Rico.

The AO is operated and managed by the University of Central Florida (UCF) and subrecipients through a cooperative agreement that began on April 1, 2018 and has a 5-year term. As such, a new agreement would need to begin early next year. We are concerned that the National Science Foundation has yet to inform UCF about their plans for a future agreement and has not begun the process to award a new contract to potential recipients.

The process leading to a new agreement could take several months and requires preparation by facility staff. Considering the importance of continuity at AO, we would like for NSF to share the agency's intentions as it pertains to the future of this important facility.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Jenniffer González-Colón  
Member of Congress



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress



Maria Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress



Brian Babin  
Member of Congress



Steven M. Palazzo  
Member of Congress