



ASTM INTERNATIONAL  
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February 1, 2023

Dear Truman Scholarship Selection Committee:

It is my honor to submit this letter of recommendation in support of Mr. Jason M. Hess's application for the Harry Truman Scholarship. Through my capacity as a technical committee operations manager and as the head of the ASTM International Academic Outreach program, I had the pleasure of recruiting and working directly with Jason in 2022. Jason was selected from a pool of highly qualified student applicants to represent ASTM International in the Washington Internship for Students of Engineering (WISE) program. The WISE program is a collaborative initiative involving a series of different trade associations, professional societies, standards developing organizations, among others, that share a common goal of introducing undergraduate and graduate students pursuing degrees in STEM to the innerworkings of U.S. public policy and explores how technical solutions can help address social and economic issues.

When searching for a 2022 WISE intern to represent ASTM, Jason's application stood out immediately. Since taking responsibility of our involvement in this program, I have received several applications from students pursuing civil, environmental, and materials engineering degrees, so to see Jason's interests around mechanical and aerospace engineering was a welcome change of pace. From the moment we first met for his interview, Jason exuded his passion for both aerospace and public policy related to it, making him a perfect fit for the program.

Over the course of the 9-week program, Jason raised the bar for all WISE interns. Jason jumped in early and leveraged all available resources provided by ASTM and the WISE program to research current public policy related to orbital space debris. During this time, I witnessed firsthand as he soaked up and distilled all available information on his chosen topic. Through our coaching and his relentless hard work, Jason translated everything he learned on a relatively new international public policy issue that literally stretches out of this world. As a result, Jason published and presented his findings titled *Orbital Space Debris: Policy Recommendations in the Pursuit of Near- and Long-Term Space Sustainability* to his fellow WISE interns, program sponsors, and several interested industry and government stakeholders in Washington, D.C.

Since completing the program last year, Jason has remained in close contact with us and continues to take advantage of every opportunity as he plans to pursue a graduate degree focused on research in space debris clean up and management. He has shared with me his desire to continue to learn as much as possible with the goal of leading the charge to advanced public policy and address many of the rapidly growing concerns around space debris. Based on our interactions, I have zero doubt that he will be successful in making a positive societal impact very soon. For these reasons, I believe Jason to be a stellar candidate for the Truman Scholarship as his work will undoubtedly bring about a positive impact on both science and society.

Thank you for your careful consideration of Jason's application and please feel free to contact me should you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Murdock'.

**Travis Murdock**  
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