

March 24, 2026

Dear Dr. Schmidt and Dr. Miller,

I'm writing to formally resign from my position at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies. My last day will be April 3 2026. I will be taking annual leave March 30-April 2, and will plan to wrap up all programmatic activities by March 27.

The decision to leave was not an easy one. I thought I'd spend my entire career working at this wonderful place. Like many young people, I daydreamed about working at NASA. Those four magic letters conjured up a sense of awe and a promise that America could be a better place, one that provides its people with not only a good life but also wonder and discovery as a birthright.

I still believe in that promise. Space should be for everyone who lives on this singular planet, not a playground for the wealthy or a frontier to dominate. I think we should explore new worlds, but with humility and with our minds open together to the mysteries of the cosmos. We should remember what we've been shown: the beautiful marble, the Earth half in shadow from space, a pale blue dot seen by a little machine sent far from home. The more we learn about the Universe, the more we should cherish our perfect and irreplaceable home.

I was wrong to believe it was enough to simply do good things, to think that the benefits of knowing about our home world would be self-evident. I anticipated that our work would be questioned, but only because its implications were politically inconvenient. I never expected that *science* itself would come under attack, simply because it – like journalism, history, and even the best kind of art- is a way of seeking the truth.

I'm leaving because I want to tell the truth. The upheavals of the past year have made this difficult, and I feel that I can contribute more to the world in a position that allows me to choose my own research directions and speak publicly about everything I learn.

These are things I know and will continue to know until the weight of the evidence convinces me otherwise: the Earth is warming due to human activities, this warming is already responsible for human suffering, and it can be stopped through human action. None of this is, or should be, the least bit controversial. You know these things too, as does nearly every scientist working today.

You are both brilliant; you both have the integrity needed to navigate challenging times. Thank you for staying and leading. I'm grateful that this knowledge will remain at NASA with you.

*Ad astra per aspera,*

Kate Marvel