

THE SOUND OF THE SPACE POLICY DEBATE: Space Show Guests Speak Out

**Colloquium
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DISCUSSION DESCRIPTORS AND BOUNDARIES

- **This discussion does not advocate a particular space policy.**
 - **The use of selected audio cuts from Space Show programs should not be used to infer support or the lack of support for the position or statement made by The Space Show guest.**
- 3. While I advocate civility in all debates, I do acknowledge that going negative, including the use of name calling, may produce desired results by the person making the negative statement.**
 - 4. Space Show clips are edited for audio clarity, not for content or a desired impact.**
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FILTERS, AGENDAS, PREJUDICE

Everything that is presented in all forms of media is filtered by the author, producer, director, editor, and anyone and everyone involved in the making of the document, the presentation, or the material being circulated.

I believe the audience is entitled to know the filters I used in making this presentation.

- 1. Audio clips for this presentation were selected to illustrate passion, belief systems, civility, or the lack of civility, along with a variety of policy directions..**
- 2. Every effort has been made to present a balance between the administration's policy, the Program of Record, and hybrids.**

THE SPACE POLICY DEBATE

- 1. There has been a need for a since, genuine, and comprehensive space policy debate in the United States for a long time.**
- 2. There are many stakeholders in the space policy debate including but not limited to the traditional aerospace industry, DOD, NASA, commercial space companies, contractors, space advocates and enthusiasts, NewSpace, the general public, academics, and states with unique labor and economic interests.**
- 3. A true space policy debate should be inclusive, not exclusive.**
- 4. My preference is for civility and the respect for diverse interests and policy positions.**

THE DEBATE CONTINUED....

- **Our space policy debate has been extremely passionate, more so in certain communities.**
- 2. The debate has facilitated the use of dramatic and extreme language, accusations, charges, and outcome predictions, most of which have nothing to do with reality.**
- 3. This presentation ignores the print media which is often more extreme than Space Show audio sound bites.**

DEBATE versus TARGETED INFLUENCE

Much of what we called the debate was actually working to target specific groups, particularly Congress, with a specific point of view. It was not a debate in the usual sense of a debate.

The making of space policy in the U.S. is a complicated process that caters to special interests of all types. It is also a very political process.

Remember, stakeholders “are always right” and everyone else is wrong, with few exceptions.

THE STAKEHOLDERS AND THEIR RISKS

Stakeholders had much at risk. Many had their jobs at risk in a very challenging economic environment. Many had years of their advocacy at risk and saw the opportunity to “go for broke” to make sure what they had worked so hard for over the years, even decades, came to fruition. Other stakeholders were committed to preserving (in their minds) dominant facts that characterized our space program including government launchers, safety, various relevant experiences, and issues of national security.

I believe sincerity ruled the day but it should not be confused with either reality or fact.

SPACE IN PERSPECTIVE

Lobbying and pressuring members of Congress for this or that position, piece of legislation, or certain action is the American way. So who does Congress listen to?

In a perfect world, all of us would be listened to on a nearly equal basis by our elected officials. But our world is far from perfect so let's put space lobbying and advocacy in context.

There is no hard and fast number for the sized of the space advocacy community. Some reasonable Estimates for key advocate organizations are:

- A. The Planetary Society. 100,000 person base to a bimonthly publication.**
- B. The National Space Society has been estimated to be around 100,000 members.**
- C. The Space Frontier Society may approach 2,000 members.**
- D. The Mars Society may be 2,000 U.S. members.**
- E. Other advocate organizations have an unknown number of members.**

The American Association of Retired People (AARP): 40 million members, 2006 \$1 billion rev, \$23 million lobbying.

The National Rifle Association (NRA): > 4 million members.

NASA BUDGET

- 1. NASA's budget is about one half of one percent of the Federal budget.**
- 2. However, NASA is considered discretionary funding.**
- 3. NASA's percentage of discretionary funding is ranges from 2- 2.5%!**
- 4. Discretionary funding items are the primary items that are subject to Congressional budget cuts. Interest on the debt, entitlements, some DOD issues, etc. are for the most part fixed expenses and not subject to cuts or are very hard to cut for political or other reasons.**
- 5. NASA must compete with other programs and organizations for discretionary funding.**

AT LAST – THE GOOD STUFF!

With the basics in mind, about the time The Augustine Commission released their full report, The Space Show began a series of programs to air all sides to not just what was in the Augustine Report but the space policy debate as well. This programming continues through this date. All sides to the debate have been given air time.

From September 2009 through January 31, 2010, 14 programs were Primarily dedicated to discussing Augustine.

From Feb. 1, 2010 through October 22, 2010, 34 programs addressed space policy as the only topic or as a major topic of the program.

This represents approximately 100 hours of space policy discussion!

THE REALLY GOOD STUFF!

Selected Program Audio Clips

Augustine Discussion mostly focused on the affordable, flexible path, or destinations.

- 1. Oct. 6, 2009 with AIAA: Frank Culbertson, Elliott Pullman, Dr. John Klineberg, Doc Horowitz, and Jim Muncy.**
 - a. Frank Culbertson is Senior Vice President for Orbital Sciences Corporation, Dulles, Virginia, and Deputy General Manager of their Advanced Programs Group.**
 - b. Elliott Pullman is the CEO of the Space Foundation**
 - c. Dr. John Klineberg is the former CEO of Swales Aerospace and retired president of Space Systems/Loral (SS/L). Former Director of Goddard and Glenn.**
 - d. Dr. Scott Horowitz is a retired USAF Colonel and former astronaut. In September 2005 he returned to NASA as Associate Administrator for the Exploration Systems Mission Directorate, NASA Headquarters, Washington, D.C. He is considered the inventor of the Ares 1 rocket.**
 - d/. James A. M. (Jim) Muncy is the President and founder of PoliSpace**

- 2. Nov. 6, 2009: Dr. Robert Zubrin. Dr. Robert Zubrin is a noted author and the Founder of The Mars Society.**

Space Policy FY 11 Announced

- 1. Feb. 24, 2010: Jim Muncy. James A. M. (Jim) Muncy is the President and founder of PoliSpace**
- 2. March 21, 2010: Dr. Paul Spudis. Dr. Paul Spudis Dr. Paul D. Spudis is Principal Investigator in the Planetary Geology Program of the NASA Office of Space Science, Solar System Exploration Division, specializing in research on the processes of impact and volcanism on the planets.**

AUDIO CLIPS CONTINUED...

- 3. June 14, 2010: Rick Tumlinson, Part 1.** Co-founder of SFF and space entrepreneur.
- 4. June 14, 2010: Rick Tumlinson, Part 2.**
- 5. June 14, 2010: Rick Tumlinson, Part 3.**
- 6. June 18, 2010: Doc Horowitz. Doc Horowitz. Dr. Scott Horowitz is a retired USAF Colonel and former astronaut. In September 2005 he returned to NASA as Associate Administrator for the Exploration Systems Mission Directorate, NASA Headquarters, Washington, D.C. He is considered the inventor of the Ares 1 rocket.**
- 7. October 8, 2010: Dr. Jim Vedda, Part 1. Dr. James Vedda has been with the Aerospace Corporation in Arlington, Virginia since March 2004 performing policy research and analyses for various U.S. government customers, including NASA, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Department of Commerce, the Air Force, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, and others.**

- 8. October 8, 2010: Dr. Jim Vedda, Part 2.**
- 9. October 17, 2010: Dean Davis, Part 1. Dean Davis is a Senior Principal Scientist/Engineer and Senior Study Leader for the Boeing Advanced Phantom Works, Analysis, Modeling, Simulation, & Experimentation (AMSE) organization in St. Louis, operating out of El Segundo, California.**
- 10. October 17, 2010: Dean Davis, Part 2**

WHAT'S LEFT IN THE DEBATE?

PLENTY!!!!!!

1. **Lame duck congressional issues.**
2. **Appropriations.**
3. **Deficit reduction plans.**
4. **Spending cuts?**
5. **New congress on January 20, 2011.**
6. **FY 12 may negate much of FY 11.**

Passions will keep things interesting. There will be no let up in fighting for “the cause” by the stakeholders.