

## **AIAA Congressional Visits Day 2012**

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) is the world's largest technical society dedicated to the global aerospace profession. Each year AIAA members from across the nation gather in Washington, D.C. to participate in Congressional Visits Day, meeting with Congressional representatives to discuss key policy issues affecting the aerospace profession. Recommendations for these policy issues are also shared during these meetings, providing guidance to Congress and the executive branch.

The Key policy issues outlined for 2012 are:

- Assuring the Viability of the U.S. Aerospace and Defense Industrial Base
- Dealing with Counterfeit and Malicious Hardware
- Supporting an Evolving and Adaptive Cyber Security Policy
- Lessening the Impact of Export Controls on the Domestic Aerospace Industry
- Sharing Stewardship of the Federal Aeronautics RDT&E Infrastructure
- Developing a Robust Next Generation Air Transportation System
- Strengthening the National Commitment to Aerospace Research and Development
- Facilitating Assured, Cost-Effective Human Access to Space
- Recruiting, Retaining, and Developing a World-Class Aerospace Workforce
- Increasing Emphasis and Funding for Technology and Engineering in STEM

The following AIAA outlined issues and recommendations were shared during Congressional meetings:

Continued stability of the U.S. aerospace and defense industrial base is critical to our economy, national security, infrastructure, and future workforce. In this lean budget environment, we must make sure that the nation's future is not mortgaged to address today's crisis. It is recommended that Congress and the Administration carefully consider the impact of budget cuts on the continued viability of the aerospace and defense industrial base as well as their impact on U.S. national and economic security in their budget reduction deliberations.

The current implementation of export regulations, including those applicable to actual exports as well as knowledge transfers, imposes high cost on firms, universities, and other organizations, often without a perceived commensurate benefit to national security. The result is an ongoing erosion of American competitiveness in the global economy through both a diminished industrial base and stifled innovation, impacting the nation's long-term national security capabilities and its current and future prosperity. It is recommended that Congress should overhaul and amend the export control regime (specifically ITAR), with its strictest provisions applied to only the most sensitive technologies that are not readily available from other countries that freely export the resulting capabilities.

To remain relevant, sustain high-tech industrial sectors, improve economic viability, and employ new airborne systems, the United States must modernize the National Air Transportation System. The



European Union's Vision 2020 (released in 2001) provided a blueprint for the complete modernization of their air transportation system; providing them with an industrial advantage and forcing others to adapt technologies and systems developed and manufactured within the EU. It is recommended that Congress complete the passage of an FAA reauthorization bill to provide the resources and policies necessary to accelerate air traffic modernization and fully fund FAA's capital and R&D accounts.

With current intense fiscal pressure, aerospace research and development is at very great risk during a time when U.S. competitiveness and aerospace technological leadership is also at risk. Historically aeronautical advances have been achieved through R&D funded by the DoD for military applications and by NASA for civilian applications, but a decline in U.S. government funding will cause technology gaps with serious military and economic competitiveness implications. It is recommended that Congress provide adequate resources for NASA to pursue the highest priority technologies in the space technology development roadmap sustain support at NASA for cutting-edge aeronautics research that is outside of the commercial R&D risk envelope.

With the current retirement of the Space Shuttle, the U.S. has no current means to launch people into Earth orbit, leaving only the Soyuz as a means for U.S. crew members to access the ISS. NASA is putting some resources into commercial development of a number of launch vehicle/spacecraft concepts that would be capable of carrying crews to Earth orbit and is now beginning development of a Congress authorized SLS. The financial resources made available to these programs will determine the feasible timeframe for their success, and the future cost and safety of access to space as well as the applicable U.S. technological leadership are at stake. It is recommended that the U.S. government make development of a sustainable means for transport of humans to and from Earth orbit a high priority and lead the development of the means for U.S. crews to access destinations beyond Earth orbit.

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education in our nation's classrooms provides the critical foundation needed for our future national security and economic competitiveness, yet inadequate emphasis and funding has been provided to the critical technology and engineering components of STEM. It is recommended that Congress and the Administration should endorse and fund a program to bring engineering professional in to middle school classrooms to engage students at the age where STEM performance and interest begins to wane, support university programs that partner NASA, DOT, DOD and NOAA with academia to provide hands-on training and experiences at the college level and create a roadmap for increasing public awareness regarding the benefits of space exploration and for using space exploration to inspire students to pursue careers in STEM fields.



| District | Representative           | Meeting Attendee(s)  |
|----------|--------------------------|--|
| 1        | Jeff Miller              | Major John Owen (Air Force Fellow)                                     |
| 2        | Steve Southerland        | N/A  |
| 3        | Corrine Brown            | Lee Footer (Senior Legislative Assistant)<br>& Congresswoman Brown     |
| 4        | Ander Crenshaw           | Jennifer Debes (Legislative Assistant)                                 |
| 5        | Richard Nugent           | Laura Cooper (Legislative Assistant)                                   |
| 6        | Cliff Stearns            | N/A  |
| 7        | John Mica                | N/A  |
| 8        | Daniel Webster           | Garret Bess (Legislative Assistant)<br>& Congressman Webster           |
| 9        | Gus M. Bilirakis         | Monica Richter (Senior Legislative Assistant)                          |
| 10       | C.W. Bill Young          | Victoria Warmouth (Legislative Assistant)                              |
| 11       | Kathy Castor             | Tiffany Williams (Legislative Assistant)<br>& Congresswoman Castor     |
| 12       | Dennis Ross              | Fredrick Piccolo (Chief of Staff)                                      |
| 13       | Vern Buchanan            | N/A  |
| 14       | Connie Mack              | Robin Colwell (Legislative Assistant)                                  |
| 15       | Bill Posey               | N/A  |
| 16       | Tom Rooney               | Drew Shoemaker (Military Legislative Assistant)                        |
| 17       | Frederica Wilson         | David Bagby (Legislative Director)                                     |
| 18       | Ileana Ros-Lehtinen      | Joshua Salpeter (Legislative Director)                                 |
| 19       | Ted Duetch               | N/A  |
| 20       | Debbie Wasserman-Schultz | Coby Dolan (Legislative Director)<br>& Congresswoman Wasserman-Schultz |
| 21       | Mario Diaz-Balart        | Cesar Gonzalez (Chief of Staff)  |
| 22       | Allen West               | N/A  |
| 23       | Alcee L. Hastings        | N/A  |
| 24       | Sandy Adams              | Jared Stout (Legislative Assistant)                                    |
| 25       | David Rivera             | N/A  |
| S        | Marco Rubio              | Darren Achord (Legislative Assistant)                                  |
| S        | Bill Nelson              | Nicholas Cummings (NASA Fellow)  |