



Contact: Charles Huettner  
Phone: 202 257-4872  
Email: asa52@erols.com  
www.aerostates.org

**For Immediate Release**

## State Lt. Governors Sponsor “Aviation Week” Forum

The Aerospace States Association (ASA) is now hosting an interactive forum on the web site operated by Aviation Week, a property of The McGraw-Hill Companies and home to Aviation Week & Space Technology magazine. The forum is the latest innovation to emerge from an expanding collaboration between ASA and Aviation Week.

“Lt. Governors across the country care passionately about the future of aerospace and aviation in America,” ASA Chair, Vermont Lt. Governor Brian Dubie said. “That is why they formed Aerospace States Association and why ASA is hosting this forum, which will give policymakers and lawmakers in the federal government to learn about aerospace activities in each state, interact with their counterparts across the country respond to issues that are important to us all.”

The initial forum is seeking comments on ASA’s **aerospace agenda** that will be presented to President Obama and appropriate Congressional Committees. Click on the Forum Tab at [www.aviationweek.com](http://www.aviationweek.com) to participate in the discussion.

ASA aerospace’s agenda includes the following:

1. Encourage education in the STEM subjects: **science, technology, engineering and mathematics**. Our children are our future.
2. Address the critical shortage of **the nation’s** technology-knowledgeable workforce. Create incentives to encourage more college graduates **to enter** the technical fields. The workforce shortage is aggravated in the aerospace/defense industry by security restrictions requiring work be done by American citizens. The shortage is further compounded by an aging aerospace workforce, 60 percent of which is 45 or older.

**ASA is seeking an action plan from** the Interagency Aerospace Revitalization Task Force that addresses STEM education and workforce issues.

3. Implement the “NextGen” air transportation system as soon as possible. A safe, secure, and efficient air transportation system is essential to U.S. prosperity and competitiveness in the global economy. The entire air transportation community is united behind the NextGen Concept of Operations. The disagreement is over who will pay. White House leadership is necessary to transform the nation’s air transportation system. ASA further recommends that President Obama direct the Secretary of Transportation to invite industry to compete for a comprehensive integrated solution that will achieve the objectives **in the NextGen plan**.

4. Increase investment in NASA's space science and aeronautics research, especially in the areas of propulsion, **energy, and the environment**. ASA wants to restore the NASA **aeronautics and space science** budgets to FY 1998 levels and request an investment plan from NASA that reflects these objectives. Looking to the future, NASA should receive 1% of the federal budget to keep the technology engine of America moving strong.
5. Reform Export Control / ITAR processes and regulations. The U.S. needs a predictable, efficient, and transparent export control system that keeps sensitive technologies out of the wrong hands while facilitating trade and cooperation with our friends and allies. **ASA recommends** that the **Obama administration asks** the departments of State, Commerce, Defense, and Transportation and NASA to form a joint task force with industry to develop an integrated legislative proposal that will enhance U.S. security, unlock the power of U.S. industry to compete around the world, and empower U.S. universities to attract the brightest and best students from around the world.

In the following **weeks**, Lt. Governors from each state will begin forums focusing on aerospace activities within their **state**, and ask for feedback from the aerospace community and public.

ASA is a bi-partisan organization representative of the grass roots of American aerospace. It is a scientific and educational organization of Lieutenant Governors and Governor-appointed delegates. ASA was formed to promote a state-based perspective in federal aerospace policy development and to support state aerospace initiatives that enhance student/teacher education outreach and economic development opportunities. Currently chaired by Brian Dubie, Lieutenant Governor of Vermont, ASA maintains direct ties to the executive branches of state governments throughout the nation.