

Invest in America's Future

Eighth in a series



BROOKS KRAFT/CORBIS

At a time when the U.S. and its leaders are focused on bailouts and other actions to rescue the most troubled sectors of our economy, please don't neglect the industry that generates a trade surplus that supports the U.S. economy: aerospace. We cannot take the American aerospace industry and its jobs for granted.

The Aerospace States Assn. (ASA) and its membership of lieutenant governors from around our nation congratulate you on becoming our 44th president. And from each state capital, we challenge you to invest in America's future.

The aerospace industry is the engine that defends our nation, drives our economy and provides Americans with highly paid jobs. That is why America must continue to lead the world in aerospace. Our state and national economies and our future depend on it.

Please understand, Mr. President, that for the U.S. to maintain its global leadership, we need: an expansion in research and

●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. Your leadership is necessary to transform our air transportation system. We recommend that you direct the Transportation secretary to invite industry to compete for a comprehensive integrated solution that will achieve the objectives in the NextGen plan. We need NextGen this generation!

●Increase investment in NASA's space science and aeronautics research, especially in the areas of propulsion, energy and the environment. We recommend that you restore the NASA aeronautics and space science budgets to Fiscal 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.

●Reform export control/International Traffic in Arms Regulations 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. We recommend that you ask the State, Commerce, Defense and Transportation Depts., 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 American industry to compete globally and empower our universities to attract the brightest and best students from around the world.

In each of our states, Mr. President, we are the stewards and growers of American aerospace and its workforce. By taking these steps on behalf of our nation, you will secure American aerospace's leadership and help to ensure that our economy will thrive well into the future.

Sincerely,
Vermont Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie, Chair
Aerospace States Assn.
www.aerostates.org

As president, you and your administration must champion the U.S.'s leadership role in the aerospace and defense industry.

development, a trained workforce, capital investment and policies that ensure a level playing field for the American worker.

As president, you and your administration must champion America's leadership role in aerospace. To that end, ASA's lieutenant governor members challenge you to:

●Encourage education in the STEM subjects: science, technology, engineering and mathematics. And we also need to address the critical shortage in our technology-knowledgeable workforce, by creating incentives to encourage more college graduates in the technical fields. This shortage is aggravated in the aerospace and defense industry by security restrictions requiring that work be done by American citizens. The shortage is compounded by the average age of the aerospace workforce: 60% is 45 or older.

We recommend that you request an action plan from the Interagency Aerospace Revitalization Task Force that addresses STEM education and workforce issues.