

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
George C. Marshall Space Flight Center  
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812



November 28, 2007

Reply to Attn of:

MSFC Office of the Chief Counsel

TO: Distribution

FROM: MSFC Chief Counsel

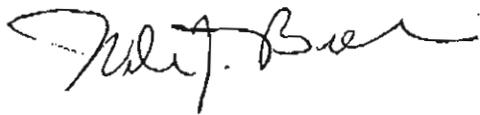
SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance at the Space Studies Board Dinner on December 7, 2007

On September 10, 2007, the Space Studies Board (SSB) of the National Academies launched a public seminar series on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Geophysical Year, when the Space Age was born with the launching of the first artificial satellites. The series consists of 12 seminars, each followed by a dinner, occurring in different geographical locations throughout the nation. The purpose of the seminar series is to engage scientists and the public in assessing the scientific and social contributions of space science. On the afternoon of December 7, one of these seminars will be held at the National Space Science and Technology Center (NSSTC), and will include two discussion panels of distinguished scientists and engineers addressing past accomplishments and future priorities for space science.

In conjunction with the seminar at NSSTC, there will be a dinner party for around fifty people hosted by the SSB at Chef Greens on Fountain in downtown Huntsville. Attendees will include the members of the SSB; employees from NASA, Army Space Missile Defense Command, U.S. Space and Rocket Center, the University of Alabama at Huntsville, Alabama A&M University, and Ball Aerospace; NASA retirees who will speak at the seminar; and high achieving undergraduate students who are interested in becoming math and science teachers. The per person cost of the dinner party is approximately \$45.00. Outside funding for the seminars/dinners is provided to SSB from several corporations - Boeing, Northrop Grumman, Orbital Sciences, ATK, and Ball Aerospace - with additional support from non-profits including AIAA and the National Space Society. At each seminar dinner, one or two specific corporate supporters are being recognized by SSB. At the December 7<sup>th</sup> dinner, supporter Ball Aerospace will be recognized.

I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g). I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because it will further Agency programs or operations. Attendance at the reception will allow NASA representatives to exchange views on the scientific and social contributions of space science with people from industry, academia,

government, and the SSB. Thus, NASA invitees, accompanied by their spouse or a guest, may attend the SSB dinner.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. J. Bierbower". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and "J".

William J. Bierbower  
Chief Counsel