National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

June 12, 2008

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Congressional and Industry Reception, June 18, 2008

On June 18, 2008, NASA will be holding its third annual NASA Day on the Hill event. The event is designed to educate and inform Members of Congress, staffers and the general public of the past 50 years of NASA accomplishments, highlight current endeavors, and identify what NASA's future holds. NASA will present several exhibits in the Rayburn House Office Building foyer from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. as part of this overall outreach effort. The NASA exhibits will highlight the Vision for Space Exploration as well as the roles, responsibilities and accomplishments of the specific NASA mission areas. In the evening, NASA will host a short speaking program at which NASA officials, members of Congress and NASA staff will speak to an audience of Congressional staffers, industry representatives, and the general public. Approximately 300 people are expected to attend some, or all, of the event. Members of the general public are free to attend without charge.

Members of the Coalition for Space Exploration, a group of over 35 companies and other entities with interests in NASA's programs, will provide refreshments throughout the day (coffee, muffins, cookies, etc.) at its own table near the exhibit area. The per person cost of these refreshments is estimated at $5.00. In addition, in the evening from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., the following Coalition members, Aerojet, ATK Launch Systems, ASRC, Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp., Boeing, General Dynamics, Honeywell, Jacobs Engineering, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Orital Sciences Corp., SAIC, SpaceX, Space Transportation Association, Teledyne Brown, United Space Alliance, US Chamber, United Technologies Corp., and Virgin Galactic, will fund a reception in which food and refreshments will be provided proximate to the speaking program hosted by NASA. The total value of refreshments provided in the evening is estimated to total $30.00 per person.

Both the full-day NASA exhibits event and the evening reception in conjunction with the exhibits will be attended by members of Congress and their staffs, industry representatives and members of the general public who wish to attend. I find that both these events meet the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g).

I have determined that free attendance of NASA employees is in the best interests of the Agency because it will further NASA programs and operations. It will provide an informal

opportunity for NASA officials and staff involved in all aspects of NASA's implementation of the Vision for Space Exploration to confer and discuss issues of mutual interest with members of Congress and key Congressional staff, industry representatives, and interested members of the general public.

Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the event sponsors may accept an invitation for free attendance to the event for themselves and their invited spouses or guests.

NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.205(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

Adam F. Greenstone