

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

**Mary W. Jackson Building NASA Headquarters**  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



January 5, 2026

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution  
FROM: Agency Counsel for Ethics  
SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the Maryland Space Business Roundtable Coffee Social on January 14, 2026

On January 14, 2026, the Maryland Space Business Roundtable, a nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, will host a coffee social with Cynthia Simmons, Acting Center Director, Goddard Space Flight Center at the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation's Innovation Station in Largo, Maryland from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Approximately 100 people have been invited to attend. Attendees will have a diversity of views or interests and will include representatives from the legislative branch, state and local government officials, representatives from industry, employees of Federal agencies, and members of the public. The estimated cost of the event, including all food and beverages, is \$15 per person. The Maryland Space Business Roundtable is in control of the organizing, planning, and invitations for this event. Attendance at this event will allow NASA attendees to exchange information regarding various NASA programs. I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(2).

I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because it will provide an opportunity for the invited persons to exchange ideas and views pertaining to NASA's policies, programs and operations. NASA employees who do not have a significant role in a matter affecting the interests of the sponsor may accept an invitation for free attendance to the event. In those circumstances, I find that the Agency's interest in attendance outweighs any concern that the individual may be, or may appear to be, improperly influenced in the performance of their duties.

However, NASA employees who have a significant role in any pending matter affecting the interests of the Maryland Space Business Roundtable, such as procurement duties, program management, or negotiating or administering a Space Act Agreement, should seek a separate determination from their local ethics counselor as to whether they may accept the invitation.

Adam F. Greenstone