National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

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

October 29, 2026

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA employees at the 2026 John H Glenn Lecture in Space History Event on October 29, 2026

On October 29, 2026, Christopher U. Browne, the John and Adrienne Mars Director National Air and Space Museum, and The Boeing Company will host a reception at the National Air and Space Museum 650 Jefferson Drive SW, Washington, DC, starting at 6:30 p.m. followed by the John H Glenn Lecture in Space History at 8:00 p.m.

Approximately 100 people have been invited to attend. Attendees will have a diversity of views or interests and will include donors, industry professionals, Congressional staffers, employees of Federal agencies, and subject matter experts from academia and the Smithsonian Institution. The estimated cost of the event, including all food and beverages, is $103 per person. Guests of NASA personnel are invited.

The Boeing Company 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 Boeing Company, 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.

KATHLEEN SPEAR

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Kathleen T. Spear