

**Minutes
Alabama Space Authority
Meeting**

September 20, 2022

U.S. Space and Rocket Center – Huntsville, AL

Call to Order:

10:11 A.M.

Welcome and Remarks

Chairman Livingston called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Present: 7

Senator Steve Livingston, Chair

Dr. Daniel K. Wims

Major General (Ret.) Tim Crosby

Dr. William T. Hutto (joined virtually)

Jordan Howard (joined virtually for Mr. Bill Poole)

Frank Farmer for Mr. John Cooper

Stefania Jones for Mr. Greg Canfield

Visitors: 17

Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth

Shonda Gray

Dr. Kimberly Robinson

Michael Ward

Jesse Skaggs

Judy Miller

Stacey DeFore

Tracy Lamm

Lucia Cape

Shannon Reeves

Robert La Branche

Joe Rice

Shelly Walker (joined virtually)

Ashley Hunt (joined virtually)

Reports and Presentations

Presentation by Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth. Lt. Governor Will Ainsworth announced that he is the State Chair for the Alabama Chapter of the Aerospace States Association (ASA). He mentioned the ASA Day event held in Montgomery and stated it is a great way to expose the legislature to what is happening in aerospace defense. He stated that Mr. Joe Rice, with Lockheed Martin Space, has been instrumental with the Alabama Chapter's

internship program. Lt. Governor Ainsworth stated that he would like the state legislature to fund the internship program to expand it.

Presentation by Mr. Joe Rice, Director of State and Local Government Relations, Lockheed Martin Space. Mr. Rice stated that he is working with the Alabama Chapter of the ASA to make Alabama the center of aerospace. He works to advertise Alabama's role throughout the nation and to help bring states together through workforce development. Mr. Rice stated that the internship program provides outreach to high school and college students to educate them about the aerospace industry and the types of opportunities available in Alabama.

Presentation by Mr. Mike Ward, Sr. Vice President of Government and Public Affairs, Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Ward gave a summary of how Redstone Arsenal was selected as the home of the U.S. Space Command. He stated that the Secretary of Defense created the Space Command in August 2019. He stated that the Space Command will leverage all the capabilities of all the military services when we need to engage in the domain of space. The Space Force was created in December 2019. Mr. Ward explained that the Space Force is a service in the U.S. military; it is a part of the U.S. Air Force. He stated that the Air Force selected Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville as the preferred headquarters for the Space Command on January 13, 2021. Mr. Ward explained that there had been some initial objections that the site selection process had been politically manipulated. This led reviews of the site selection process by the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Office of Inspector General, and the U.S. Government Accountability Office. Reports were released in May 2022 and June 2022. Mr. Ward explained that the reports determined that the site selection process was legitimate. He stated that the Air Force released an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in July 2022. The EIA required a thirty-day public comment period which ended in August 2022. Comments were being evaluated.

Senator Livingston asked General Crosby if he had any comments. General Crosby stated that he agreed with the summary of the process.

Presentation by Dr. Kimberly Robinson, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the U.S. Space and Rocket Center (USSRC). Dr. Robinson stated that the USSRC asked the University of Alabama in Huntsville to do an economic impact study during COVID. Results of the study showed that the USSRC has an annual economic impact of \$134 million with an impact of 2,000 jobs. Dr. Robinson stated that the USSRC has an additional \$50 million in visitor spending when visitors are in the area. She gave an overview of the USSRC and some of its programs. The USSRC is the number-one paid tourist attraction in Alabama. Over 50,000 students visit the museum annually. The USSRC's Space Camp is the longest-running and largest STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) camp in the world. The Space Camp hosts approximately 1,000 students per week during the summer. The USSRC has an experiment on the international space station that engages students from 69 countries.

The presentation is attached.

Minutes

Motion to approve by Major General (Ret.) Tim Crosby.

Second by Mr. Frank Farmer.
Vote called – Unanimous.

Old Business:

Mr. Robert La Branche, Executive Director, Alabama Military Stability Foundation, stated that in 2020 Chairman Livingston and Lt. Governor Ainsworth asked the Military Stability Foundation to embark on an economic impact study to cover the military impact on the state of Alabama and also aerospace. He explained that they have a special call out for aerospace. He stated that they recently received the preliminary report. The total direct output for aerospace in the state of Alabama is \$12.4 billion. Mr. LaBranche stated that when you add the indirect and induced effects of aerospace, that's an additional \$5 billion for a total of \$17.3 billion of aerospace impact. He explained that's 7.5% of Alabama's gross domestic product, which is \$231 billion. He stated that the total impact on payroll was \$4.25 billion, which is 5.5% of the total annual wages in the state of Alabama. Mr. LaBranche also stated that aerospace accounts for 4% of Alabama's workforce.

Question: Are the studies of military and aerospace impact independent?

Response: Mr. LaBranche stated that they are not independent.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center on January 12, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.

Adjourn

10:59 A.M.