

2004 DC Trip
NKIS / Citizens for Space Exploration
Summary Assessment Report
KIS, TX

Overview:

On May 3 – 6, 2004, National Keep It Sold, *Citizens for Space*, a multi-state grassroots space advocacy coalition, conducted its 13th annual Congressional visitation to Washington, DC. During the visitation, NKIS travelers visited with 238 Senate and House offices, delivering a grassroots message of support for NASA and America's Vision for Space Exploration. To affirm support for America's Vision for Space Exploration, the NKIS Coalition unveiled a new image at their Congressional Reception at the Library of Congress, adopting the new name of *Citizens for Space Exploration*. *The Citizens for Space Exploration* Coalition included travelers representing diverse areas of economic development, education, small business, municipalities, county and municipal government, realty, space- and non space-related industry, and others. The message focused on the benefits of space exploration initiatives to citizens and communities through personal and business economic impact, education initiatives, technology development and tech transfer, as well as current and future science research and development to support robotic and human missions to the Moon, Mars and beyond.

The *Citizens for Space Exploration* Coalition consists of the five (5) Gulf Coast states supporting NASA Centers: Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, Texas; Cocoa Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, Florida; Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce, Alabama; and, Partners for Stennis, Mississippi and Louisiana.

The Travelers:

Representatives of various organizations and businesses from ten (10) states and DC contributed to the success of the trip.

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------|------------|
| ◆ Texas | ◆ Florida | ◆ Alabama |
| ◆ Mississippi | ◆ Louisiana | ◆ Colorado |
| ◆ Massachusetts | ◆ New Mexico | ◆ New York |
| ◆ Washington, DC | ◆ Wisconsin | |

Sixty-seven (67) Texas members of *Citizens for Space Exploration* represented diverse areas such as business, education and/or civic and government entities located in Bay Area Houston. Five (5) Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership county and municipal members were represented, as well as the City of Murphy, TX:

- ◆ Houston
- ◆ League City
- ◆ Nassau Bay
- ◆ Seabrook
- ◆ Harris County

Sixteen (16) Texas students and educators attended, representing various Texas educational Institutions, as well as MIT. Eleven (11) of the students/educators were funded by KIS, with each having prior STEM/aerospace experience through JSC education programs such as Texas Aerospace Scholars, KC-135, JPL Mars Rovers, Curriculum Improvement Partnership, or others.

- ◆ Academy of Aerospace & Engineering
- ◆ Booker T. Washington Engineering School
- ◆ Clear Creek ISD
- ◆ College of the Mainland Foundation
- ◆ Katherine Stinson Middle School
- ◆ Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- ◆ Pasadena ISD
- ◆ Pin Oak Middle School
- ◆ San Jacinto College District
- ◆ Texas A&M University
- ◆ Texas State Technical College
- ◆ University of Houston Clear Lake

A total of 120 travelers attended from ten (10) states and DC, including 28 students and educators, visiting with 238 Members of Congress and/or their staffers experienced in NASA / science issues.

The Visits:

In addition to the 238 visit appointments, 172 offices received impromptu visits during which a brief, introductory conversation was conducted with a staffer who was given a briefing packet with *Citizens* contact information. A total of 410 legislative contacts were conducted. Each Member's office received the briefing packet containing a briefing document with information and resources regarding Space Station, Shuttle, Crew Exploration Vehicle, SATOP, technology commercialization and transfer, NASA education initiatives, procurement and grant data, and various other references. A letter to the Appropriations Committees expressing support for the FY05 NASA budget was included in the packet.

To maximize the impact of the visitation, specific Members of Congress were selected according to their committee assignments, and seniority:

- ◆ House Appropriations Committee, specifically VA-HUD Subcommittee members
- ◆ Senate Appropriations Committee, specifically VA-HUD Subcommittee members

- ◆ House Science Committee, specifically Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee members
- ◆ Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, specifically Science, Technology and Space Subcommittee members
- ◆ Freshman Senators and Representatives were also selected for visits so that the importance of NASA and its programs could be reiterated as a priority for them as the debate on America's Vision for Space Exploration ensues.

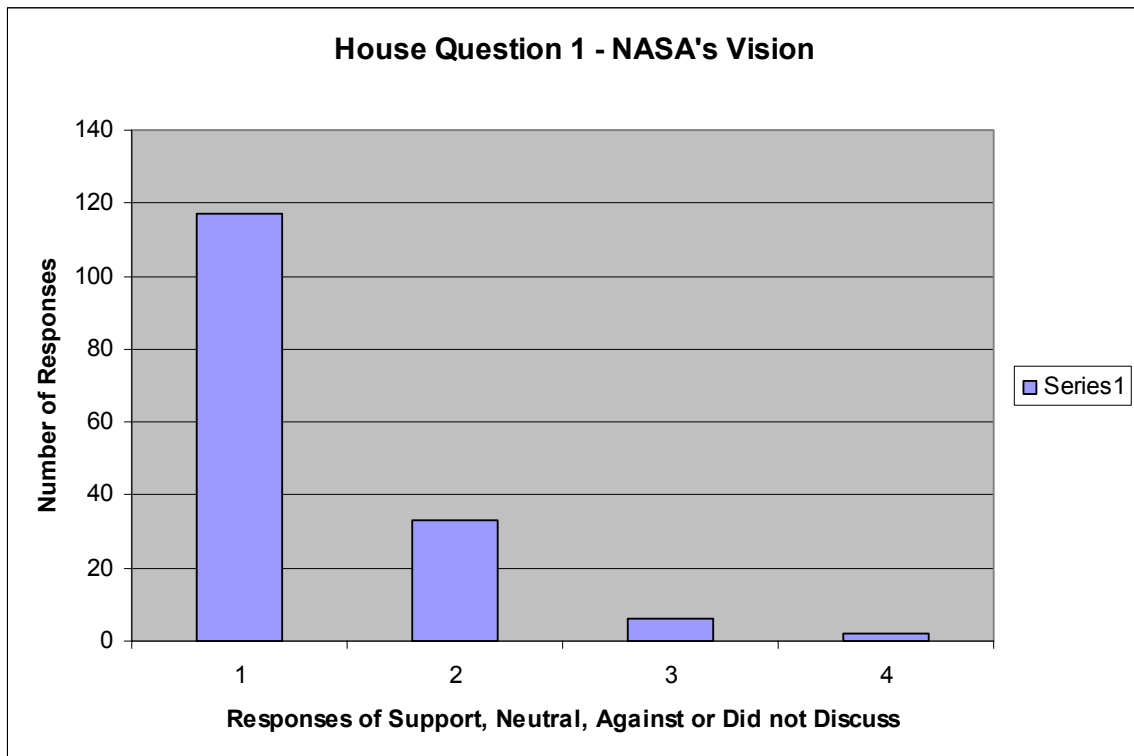
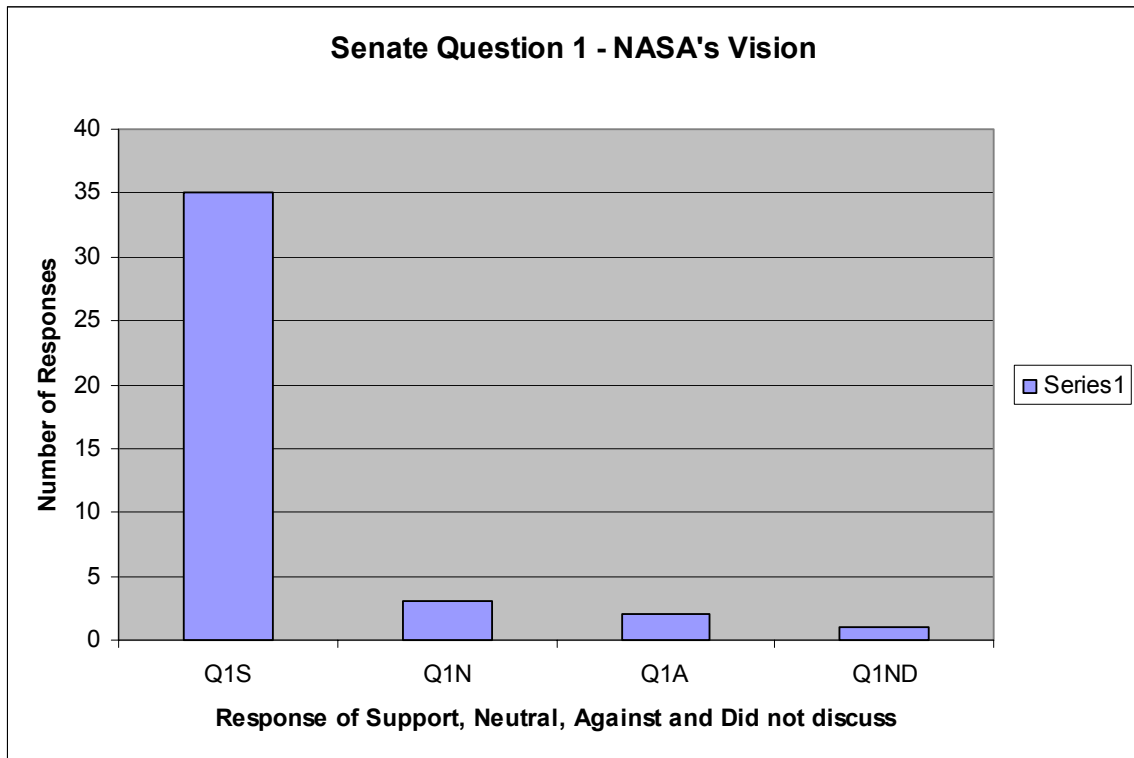
The results are as follows:

- ◆ HAC, 53 members with 26 visits conducted
- ◆ SAC, 28 members with 17 visits conducted
- ◆ HSC, 35 members with 22 visits conducted
- ◆ SCC, 20 members with 15 visits conducted
- ◆ House Freshmen, 15 visits conducted
- ◆ Senate Freshmen, 4 visits conducted

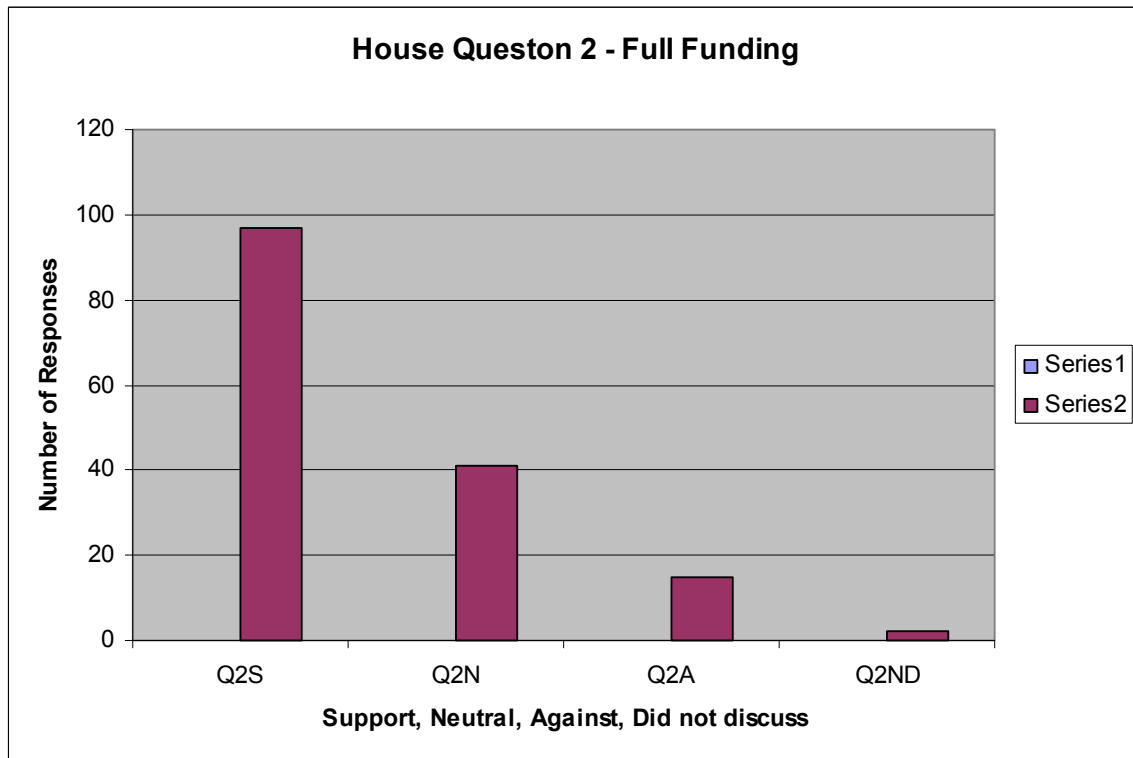
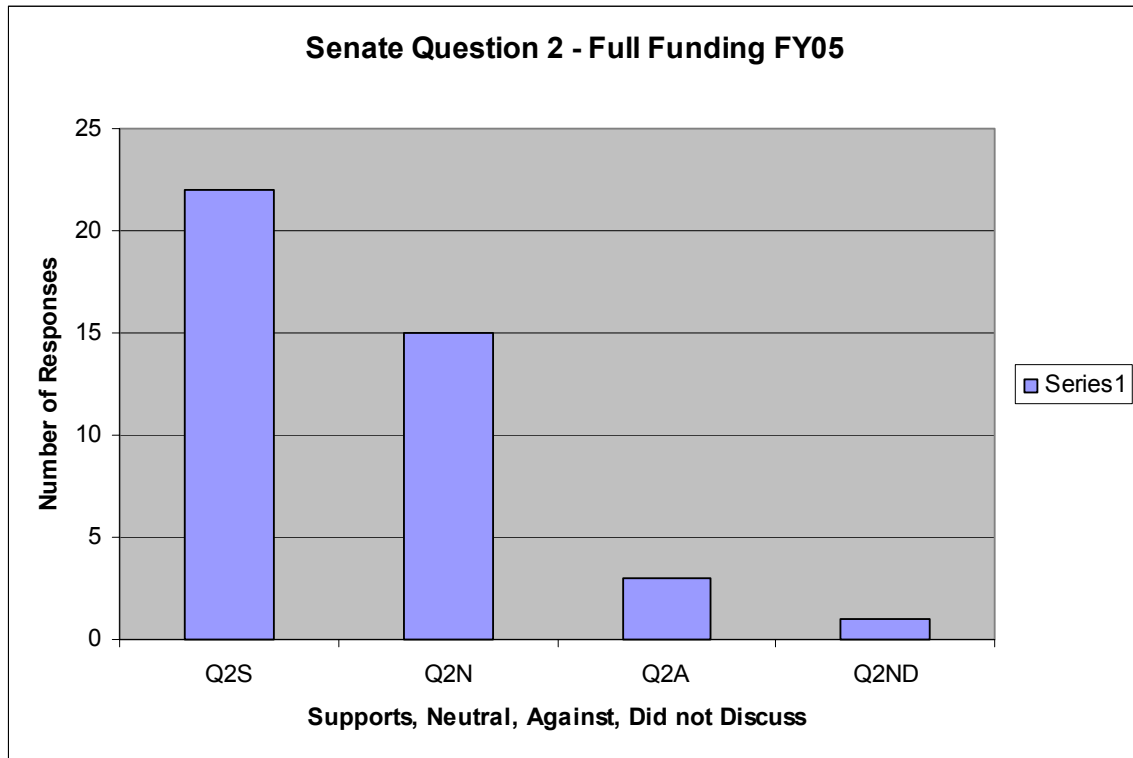
Objective Data Assessment:

As the *Citizens* travelers conducted each visit and discussed issues with the Members and/or staffers, notes were taken and an evaluation sheet was completed. While reviewing the data, please remember that not each issue was discussed in each office. Rather, a general overview of the important issues was presented, with the discussion being driven by the Member and/or staffer. (Graphs indicate results received to-date)

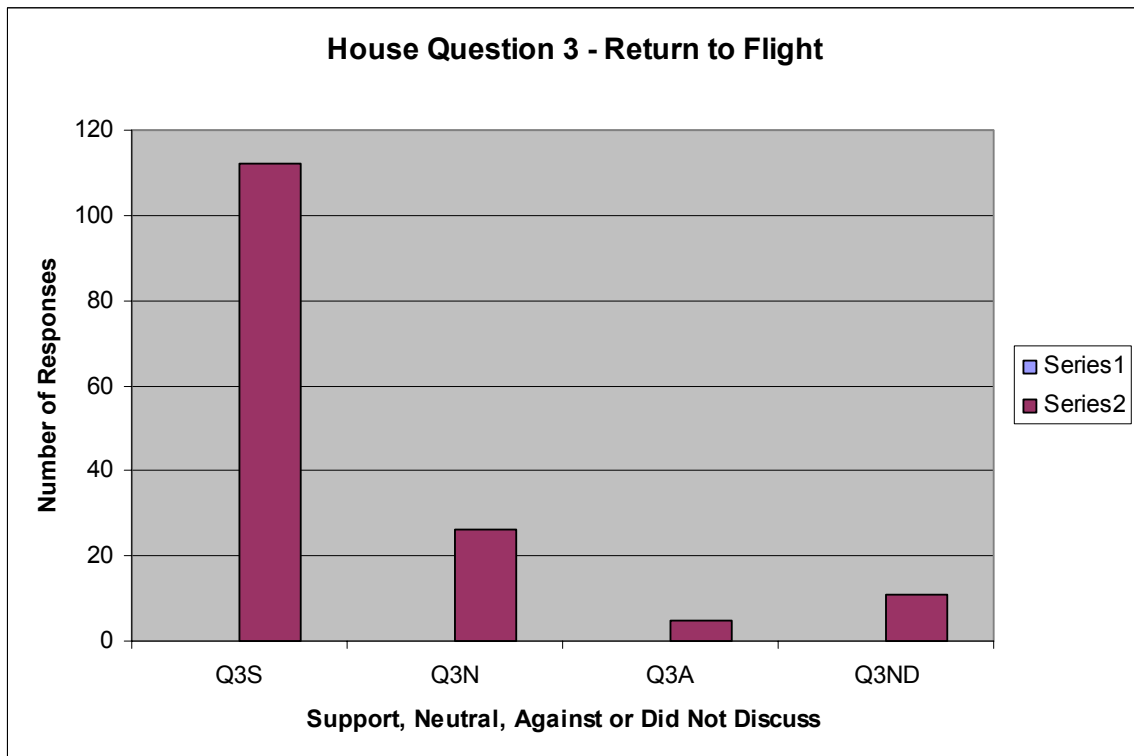
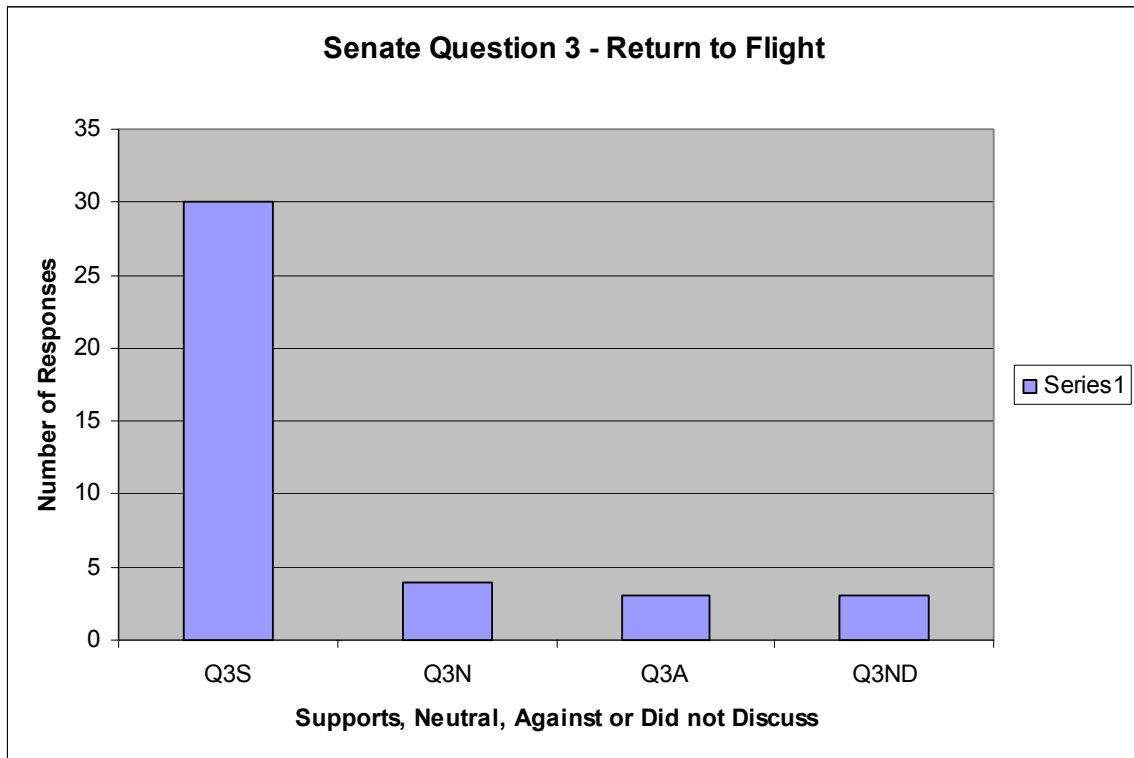
Issue 1: A national vision for Space Exploration that includes robotic & human missions to Moon, Mars & beyond



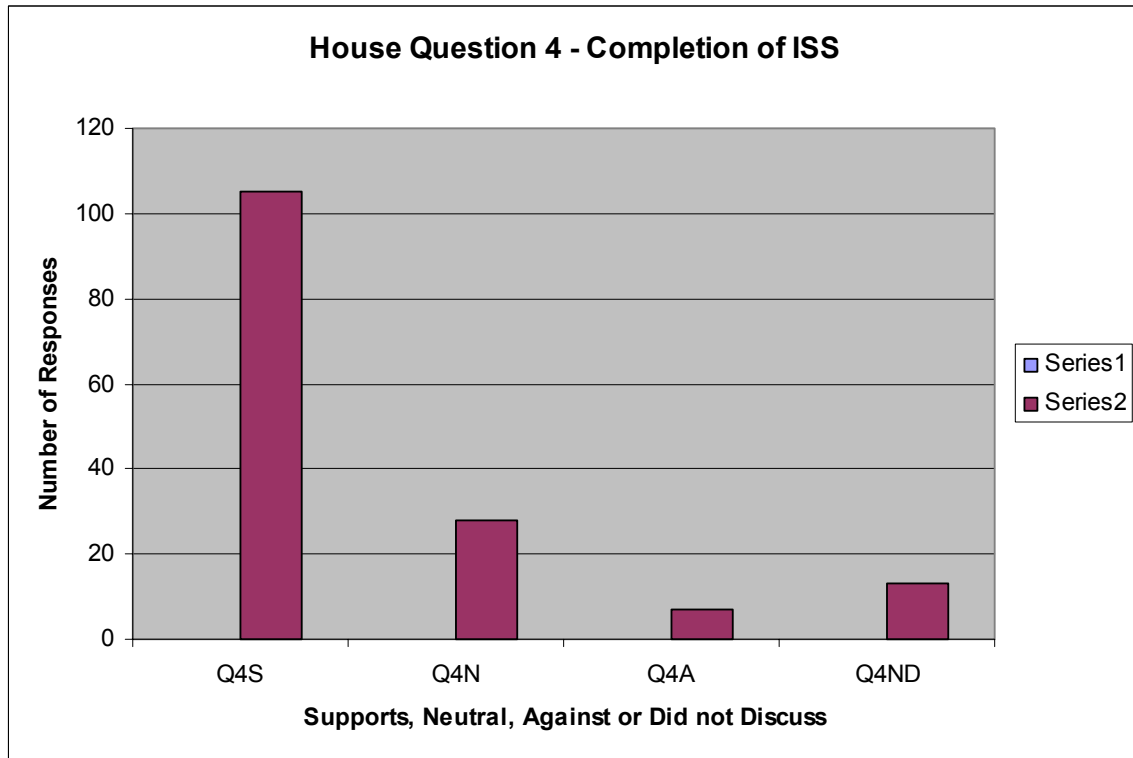
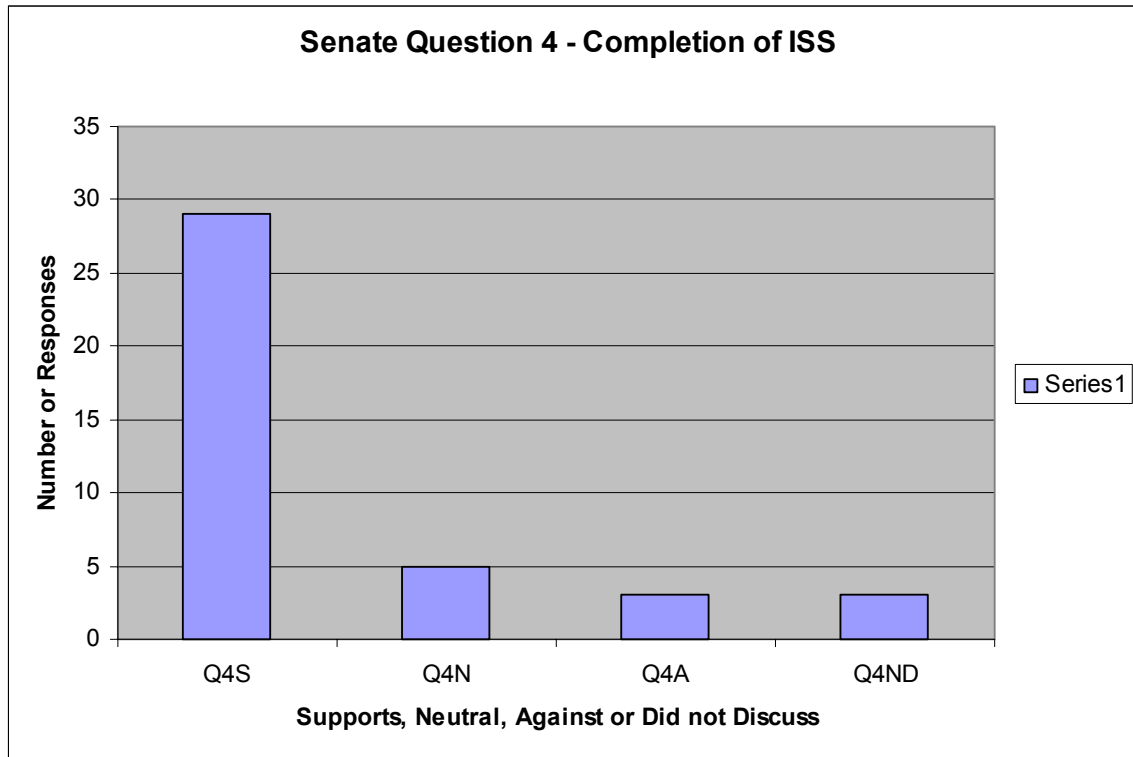
Issue 2: Full funding for NASA's budget



Issue 3: Return to flight of Shuttle, consistent with safety concerns & CAIB recommendations



Issue 4: Completion of International Space Station



Issue 5: Presentation of a Senate letter to Senate Appropriations Committee, shepherded by Senator John Cornyn, or a House letter to House Appropriations Committee, shepherded by Majority Leader Tom DeLay, expressing support to fully fund the Fiscal Year 2005 budget request (please refer to attached Senate letter, Appendix A).

Information was given on how to contact Senator Cornyn or Majority Leader DeLay if the Member was willing to sign as a supporter. The majority of responses were from staffers who deferred commitment until the Member could review the letter.

Signatories* to the Senate Appropriations Committee, which was sent May 14th, were:

- | | | | |
|---------------|----------|---|----|
| • Daniel | Akaka | D | HI |
| • Wayne | Allard | R | CO |
| • Jeff | Bingham | D | NM |
| • John | Breaux | D | LA |
| • Maria | Cantwell | D | WA |
| • John | Cornyn | R | TX |
| • Mark | Dayton | D | MN |
| • Christopher | Dodd | D | CT |
| • Bob | Graham | D | FL |
| • Orrin | Hatch | R | UT |
| • Mary | Landrieu | D | LA |
| • Bill | Nelson | D | FL |
| • Jeff | Sessions | R | AL |

The House Appropriations Committee letter has not yet been sent

*Custom dictates that Members of recipient committees would not sign.

Subjective Data Assessment

Various comments were made on each issue, and these have been captured for review and follow-up by the appropriate entities. These feedback comments provided much useful insight into the conditional or limited nature of the Members' endorsements of NASA, which is demonstrated when the objective and subjective responses to each item are compared (please refer to the data items and graphs). For example, the majority of responses to Item 1, **Vision**, and Item 2, **Budget** are "Support," but the subjective comments specifically qualify the conditional nature of that support and/or give reservations; i.e., "We support the Vision, but not the part about..." and "We support full funding for NASA's budget, but..." A comparison of Item 1 and Item 2 responses indicates that Members are willing to sign up for the Vision for Space Exploration, but are much less willing to support the NASA budget required to carry out the Vision. There is a significant disconnect between support for these two items, and much work needs to be done to win unconditional support for the Vision and the funding to go with it.

While the specific comments have not been included in this report, they can be categorized as:

1. Support for NASA/space in general

2. Approval for Vision for Space Exploration
3. Support for Budget, with these reservations
 - Waiting for a detailed programmatic budget proposal
 - Waiting for timeline
 - Support for completing current productive science R&D programs, particularly life sciences, ISS and Hubble
 - Minor budget cuts supportable, but majority will not support total program cuts as listed above
4. Support for CAIB process, findings and recommendations
5. A general lack of Member aerospace-specific knowledge when NASA/space is not a primary concern of constituents and/or committees.

Many requests for information were made regarding the following categories, and these will be referred to the appropriate entity for follow-up:

- ◆ SATOP, Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program
- ◆ General technology development and transfer
- ◆ Detailed information from NASA on Vision for Space Exploration and Budget

Special Events:

NKIS conducted a Travelers Briefing Reception on Monday evening, May 3, to receive updated information and presentations from several speakers, and conduct team meetings to prepare for the DC visitation. Commander Lee Forsgren, NASA Assistant Administrator for Legislative Affairs, spoke regarding the Vision for Space Exploration and NASA's appreciation for NKIS support, and presented the NASA DVD *A Renewed Spirit of Discovery*. Frank Culbertson, SAIC, spoke to the travelers about their role as grassroots advocates for space and the importance of their personal message to the Members, stressing that their voices would be heard and make a definite impact.

Citizens travelers participated in the SATOP Alliance Partner Appreciation Event, a breakfast held at the Hotel Washington. 160 persons attended the event, during which Representative Nick Lampson presented awards to the Alliance Partners. Several *Citizens* Texas travelers accepted AP awards for their companies. Frank Culbertson accepted the Gold AP Award on behalf of SAIC, a Texas Alliance Partner. Mark Welch, a SATOP TX AP engineer from USA, received the award for his contributions to the Texas 2004 Success Story, DACUM for Fuel Cell Technology Curriculum. He was joined by Mr. John Spradling, Vice president of Texas State Technical College, Waco, TX. TSTC submitted the Request for Technical Assistance to SATOP, requesting collaboration with a fuel cell subject matter expert/engineer to develop a curriculum for a Fuel Cell Technician degree program. Mark Welch provided the assistance, with outstanding results. Several SATOP TX Alliance Partners participated in the Congressional visits, as did Alliance Partners from Florida and New Mexico.

To honor and thank the Members of Congress, *Citizens for Space Exploration* held a Congressional Reception in Madison Hall of the James Madison Memorial Building,

Library of Congress. The Reception venue was hosted by Representative Dave Weldon, (FL), and sponsored by The College of the Mainland Foundation (c)(3), Texas City, TX. Approximately 190 persons attended the Reception, during which they heard presentations from Representative Nick Lampson (TX), Majority Leader Tom Delay (TX), and NASA Associate Administrator for Space Flight, Bill Readdy. Other speakers included Representatives Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX), Kevin Brady (TX), and Dave Weldon (FL). Rep. Jim Turner (TX) also attended but did not speak. Staffers attended representing the offices of Senators Elizabeth Dole and George Voinovich, and the offices of Representatives Martin Frost and Howard Berman, as well as Tom DeLay, Nick Lampson, Sheila Jackson-Lee, and Kevin Brady. Lee Forsgren, Assistant Administrator for Legislative Affairs, NASA, also attended, as did representatives from the Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program (SATOP) and the Texas Office of State and Federal Relations.

Conclusion:

- 120 grassroots citizens from 10 states and DC, representing education, business and industry, economic development, and local government entities
- 410 Senate and Representative Offices contacted, educating and informing them of the benefits of a robust NASA budget to implement America's Vision for Space Exploration
- Visits were generally well received, with some notable exceptions, resulting in many specific comments and questions on the Vision and NASA's budget request
- Assessment of the visit data indicates that while support for the Vision for Space Exploration is strong, many Members have reservations about supporting the NASA budget request to carry out the Vision
- While the 2004 DC Trip was generally successful, the assessment shows that the Vision is by no means 'sold.' Much work remains to be done as we continue our legislative education efforts on behalf of the Vision for Space Exploration.

Appendix A

The Honorable Kit Bond
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on VA, HUD and
Independent Agencies
130 Dirksen SOB
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on VA, HUD and
Independent Agencies
128 Dirksen SOB
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Bond and Ranking Member Mikulski:

We urge you to fully fund the Fiscal Year 2005 budget request for NASA.

The budget request lays out a logical and cost-effective approach for long-term space exploration and the future of NASA with achievable milestones. Among other important elements, the request includes: the integration of both robotic and human spacecraft trips in further exploration of the Moon and Mars; a return to flight of the Space Shuttle next year in full compliance with the recommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board (CAIB); completion of the International Space Station with an emphasis on research that will further human space exploration and habitation; and development of a new Crew Exploration Vehicle.

Over the last decade, NASA has been operating under tight fiscal constraints. As noted in the CAIB report, between 1993 and 2002, the NASA budget went from \$14.31B in FY1993 to a low of \$13.6B in FY2000, to \$14.87B in FY2002. This represents a decrease of 13% in purchasing power over the decade. During the Apollo program, NASA's budget represented almost 4% of the federal budget, but, since the early 1970s, it has remained at 1% or less.

The FY2005 budget request asks for a sensible increase in the NASA budget as well as lays out a sound blueprint for the agency's future that properly focuses it on a long-term path so necessary for successful space exploration and discovery. We fully understand and are sympathetic that the Subcommittee is operating under tight budgetary caps as well as pressure and demands from other claimants. We also know that you have been strong supporters of NASA over the years and hope you will keep that tradition in mind as you develop this year's appropriations bill which is so critical to the future of U.S. space initiatives.

Best regards.