

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM ☐ Original ☐ Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House by email at gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: _____
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ **OR** ☐ None
b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: _____ Return: _____
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ **OR** ☐ None
4. Departure City: _____ Destination: _____ Return City: _____
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: _____
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: _____

7. Attached to this form are **each** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
 - a. ☐ a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
 - b. ☐ the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip, **including all** attachments **and** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
 - c. ☐ page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the employee; **and**
 - d. ☐ the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. ☐ I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*
b. If not, explain: _____

I certify that the information contained on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Traveler:  Date: _____

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Name of Supervising Member: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Supervising Member:  _____

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

☐ Original ☐ Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip within 10 days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: _____

2. Travel Destination(s): _____

3. Date of Departure: _____ Date of Return: _____

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): _____

Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if *all* information is *identical* for each person listed.

5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler				
Accompanying Family Member				

6. ☐ All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment.
Signify statement is true by checking box.

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

☐ **I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.**

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.



PPI Space Del III Long Beach Program:

August 18-20, 2026

Sunday Aug 16, 2026

8:20 - 10:52 AM

Depart from Washington, DC (IAD) to Los Angeles (LAX)

Flight: United Airlines (UA 1734) Yannick Gill Flight**

Tuesday, Aug 18, 2026

****Official Program Begins****

7:00 - 9:35 AM

Depart from Washington, DC (IAD) to Los Angeles (LAX)

Flight: United Airlines (UA 319)

9:35 - 10:30 AM

Deplane/Grab Bags

10:30 - 10:45 AM

Bus to Varda Space Industries

10:45 AM - 12:30 PM

Tour of Varda Space Industries

Location: 225 S Aviation Blvd, El Segundo, CA 90245

Staff will tour Varda Space Industries' facility to learn about the reentry vehicle company's capabilities and how they are used by various USG and commercial entities. Varda will touch on the regulatory environment and how it impacts the company's operations as well as the importance of international collaboration.

This tour is important to staff's understanding of the regulatory environment for US space companies and ability to provide oversight of how USG agencies invest in these kinds of capabilities.

12:30 - 1:15 PM

Lunch at Varda Space Industries

Location: 225 S Aviation Blvd, El Segundo, CA 90245

Staff will eat lunch at Varda Space Industries (paid for by trip sponsor). They will get the opportunity to ask questions about the information from the tour.

1:15 - 1:30 PM

Bus to Impulse Space

1:30 - 3:00 PM

Tour of Impulse Space

Location: 2651 Manhattan Beach Blvd, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

Staff will tour Impulse Space's factory to learn about in-space mobility and how it is used by various USG and commercial entities. Impulse will touch on the regulatory environment and how it impacts the company's operations as well as how its recent onboarding to the DoD NSSL program is going.

This tour is important to staff's understanding of the regulatory environment for US space companies and ability to provide oversight of how USG agencies invest in these kinds of capabilities.

3:00 - 3:30 PM

Bus to CSU Long Beach

3:30 - 4:45 PM

Tour of CSU Long Beach

Location: 16007 Crenshaw Blvd, Torrance, CA 90506

This tour is important to staff's understanding of how workforce development impacts the local space economy - and contributes to national goals.

4:45 - 5:15 PM

Taxi to Hotel

5:15 - 6:30 PM

Hotel Check-in/Executive Time

Location: Fairmont Breakers Long Beach (210 E Ocean Blvd, Long Beach, CA 90802)

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Dinner and Discussion of Day

Location: Ballast Point Brewing (110 N Marina Dr, Long Beach, CA 90803)

PPI staff will moderate a lively discussion about the tours of the day and the relevant issues that came up. This is an important opportunity for staff to ask questions about topics that were raised across tours to ensure they're appropriately connecting the hands-on learning with their DC-based legislative work.

Wednesday, August 19th, 2026

8:00 - 9:00 AM

Breakfast

9:00 - 9:30 AM

Bus to Rocket Lab

9:30 - 11:15 AM

Tour of Rocket Lab

Location: 3881 McGowen St, Long Beach, CA 90808

Staff will tour Rocket Lab's factory to learn about rocket launch and how it is used by various USG and commercial entities. Rocket Lab will touch on the regulatory environment and how it impacts the company's operations as well as how its recent onboarding to the DoD NSSL program is going.

This tour is important to staff's understanding of the regulatory environment for US space companies and ability to provide oversight of how USG agencies invest in these kinds of capabilities.

11:15 - 11:30 AM

Bus to Vast

11:30 - 1:15 PM

Tour of Vast

Location: 2851 Orange Ave, Long Beach, CA 90806

Staff will tour Vast's factory to learn about commercial space stations and how they will be used by various USG and commercial entities. Vast will touch on the regulatory environment and how it impacts the company's operations as well as how NASA's CLD program is going in light of recent changes.

This tour is important to staff's understanding of the regulatory environment for US space companies and ability to provide oversight of how USG agencies invest in these kinds of capabilities.

1:15 - 2:00 PM

Lunch at Vast Space

Location: 2851 Orange Ave, Long Beach, CA 90806

Staff will eat lunch at Varda Space Industries (paid for by trip sponsor). They will get the opportunity to ask questions about the information from the tour.

2:00 - 2:15 PM

Travel to K2 Space Corporation

2:15 - 4:00 PM

Tour K2 Space Corporation

Location: 1355 Sepulveda Blvd, Torrance, CA 90501

Staff will tour K2 Space's factory to learn about high-power satellites and other systems and how they are used by various USG and commercial entities. K2 Space will touch on the regulatory environment and how it impacts the company's operations as well as how the recent Space Force acquisition structure changes are going.

This tour is important to staff's understanding of the regulatory environment for US space companies and ability to provide oversight of how USG agencies invest in these kinds of capabilities.

4:00 - 4:30 PM

Travel to Hotel

4:30 - 6:30 PM

Executive Time

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Dinner with Long Beach Mayor and Local Space CEOs

Location: Ruth's Chris Steakhouse (80 E Ocean Blvd Ste 160, Long Beach, CA 90802)

This dinner will be the culmination of everything staff have learned about the Long Beach space ecosystem and how it serves national needs. The Mayor and local space CEOs will join dinner to discuss how federal legislation impacts them and top issues staff should be watching.

This tour is important for staff's understanding of how a "tech hub" comes together. It involves federal, state, and local

government combined with academic institutions and industry. This will directly inform their legislative work.

Thursday, August 20, 2026

7:00 - 8:00 AM

Breakfast at Hotel

8:00 - 8:45 AM

Travel to LAX

10:45 - 6:50 PM

Depart from Los Angeles (LAX) to Washington, DC (IAD)

Flight: United Airlines (UA 2667)

****Official Program Ends****

Friday, August 21, 2026

11:00 AM - 6:53 PM

Depart from Los Angeles (LAX) to Washington, DC (IAD)

*Flight: United Airlines (UA 2667) * Scott Watson Flight**

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip: _____

2. ☐ I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

3. **Check only one.** I represent that:

- a. ☐ The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**
- b. ☐ The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**
- c. ☐ The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: _____

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): _____

5. Yes ☐ No ☐ Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?

6. Date of Departure: _____ Date of Return: _____

7. a. City of departure: _____

b. Destination(s): _____

c. City of return: _____

8. **Check only one.** I represent that

- a. ☐ The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**
- b. ☐ The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**
- c. ☐ The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. **Check only one of the following.**

- a. ☐ I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
b. ☐ I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
c. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
d. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. _____

10. ☐ Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. **Check only one of the following.**

- a. ☐ I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box; OR*
b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.

12. For **each** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip **and** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:

13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**

- a. Mode of travel: Air ☐ Rail ☐ Bus ☐ Car ☐ Other ☐ (specify: _____)
b. Class of travel: Coach ☐ Business ☐ First ☐ Charter ☐ Other ☐ (specify: _____)
c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

14. ☐ I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:

- a. ☐ The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
b. ☐ The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): _____

2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____

Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____

Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____

Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

17. ☐ I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

☐ Actual Amounts ☐ Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee			
For each Accompanying Family Member			

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee		
For each Accompanying Family Member		

19. **Check only one:**

- a. ☐ I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**

- a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature: Lindsay Lewis Date: _____
Name: _____ Title: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____ Telephone: _____

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Ranking Member

Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Ashley Hinson, Iowa
Nathaniel Moran, Texas
Brad Knott, North Carolina

Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland
Sylvia R. Garcia, Texas
Suhas Subramanyam, Virginia



ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Jordan Downs
Chief of Staff to the Chairman

David Arrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
<https://Ethics.House.gov>

August 12, 2026

Mr. Demarquin Johnson
Office of the Honorable Ayanna Pressley
402 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Long Beach, California, scheduled for August 18 to 20, 2026, sponsored by the Third Way Foundation, Inc.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$525 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

Michael Guest
Chairman

Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member

MG/MD:ac

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection.

This form and any attachments may be submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: _____

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): _____

Office Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address of Contact Person: _____

☐ Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, and these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM. Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via email: travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: _____
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: _____

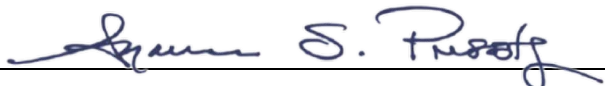
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: _____
4. a. Date of Departure: _____ Date of Return: _____
b. Yes ☐ No ☐ Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?
If yes, list dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Yes ☐ No ☐ Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**
(1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: _____
(2) Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other(specify): _____
(3) Yes ☐ No ☐ Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?
6. a. Yes ☐ No ☐ Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?
b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:

7. Yes ☐ No ☐ *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**

9. **Yes ☐ No ☐ Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**
10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member:  Date: _____

ppi radically
pragmatic



CONGRESSIONAL SPACE STAFF DELEGATION

Long Beach, California
AUGUST 18 - 20, 2026



Welcome to PPI's Space StaffDel Trip to Long Beach, CA



To our Congressional Staff Delegation,

Thank you for joining PPI's space staff delegation trip to Long Beach, CA.

For over a decade, PPI has hosted congressional delegation trips with elected officials and staff to learn firsthand about some of the most pressing policy issues facing our nation and the world at large. This bipartisan, high-level trip will feature a select group of senior staff working for members of the House who are committed to advancing innovative and forward-looking policies.

We're traveling to Long Beach — often referred to as “Space Beach” — to learn firsthand about how current administration policies are impacting the space industry and its competitiveness. In particular, the trip will examine the importance of a presence in low-Earth orbit for science and industry, how launch capacity is constrained domestically, why most space capabilities are dual-use, and what the NASA and DoD budgets will mean for the space industry writ large. As part of this trip, we will meet with commercial companies in Long Beach and get a feel for the workforce pipelines in the area.

Key themes of the trip will be:

- Understanding the state of the low-Earth orbit economy and how NASA policies have impacted it
- Understanding how NASA and DoD policies influence the space community given the dual-use nature of most space capabilities
- Understanding the domestic launch economy and why its capacity is constrained
- Opportunities to see firsthand the effects of U.S. space policy, meet with American space businesses, and learn more about the impact of the NASA and DoD budget

PPI is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with the mission of providing educational programming on current policy issues and generating radically pragmatic ideas for governing. As such, this trip will comply with House ethics rules.

We appreciate your participation and look forward to a timely and substantive dialogue in Long Beach.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Mark Lewis
PPI, Chief Executive Officer

Mary Guenther
PPI, Head of Space Policy

BEFORE YOU GO

- Make sure you have your ID and plane ticket.
- Give yourself ample time to get to Dulles International Airport prior to departure.
- PPI has provided travel accommodations, lodging, and meal arrangements for your trip. Any additional spending outside of the trip's programming must be on your own.

THINGS TO BRING

- Notebooks, tablets, etc. for note-taking during meetings
- Each passenger may bring one personal item and one carry-on suitcase.
- Make sure to pack any medications you may need, comfortable shoes for walking, comfortable clothes, and any other necessities.

DRESS CODE/ATTIRE:

Tuesday

- Flight - casual
- Day - business casual (closed toed shoes required; blazers banned)
- Night - casual

Wednesday

- All day - business casual (closed toed shoes and long pants required for day; blazers banned)

Thursday

- Flight - casual

NOTE: Down time is your personal clothing choice. Pack accordingly.

TRANSPORTATION

Flights:

Outbound:

United Flight (UA 319): IAD to LAX:

Departs Tuesday, August 18 at 7:00 AM
ET, Arrives at 9:35 AM PDT

Return:

United Flight (UA 2667): LAX to IAD:

Departs Thursday, August 20 at 10:47 AM
PDT, Arrives at 6:50 PM ET

LODGING

Fairmont Breakers Long Beach

210 E Ocean Blvd,
Long Beach, CA
90802



PPI STAFF CONTACTS

Mary Guenther

Head of Space Policy

mguenther@ppionline.org

240-330-0251

Danielle Steitz

*Director of National
Security Policy*

dsteitz@ppionline.org

908-265-7474

John Michael Dieng

*Government Relations
Manager*

jdieng@ppionline.org

347-949-2741

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

*In the event of a life-threatening medical emergency or
other emergency situation, call 911*

*PPI Staff has medical kits for non-emergency situations,
including Band-Aids, ice-packs, and more. Contact a PPI staff
member at any time of day or night for assistance.*



Mary Guenther | Head of Space Policy

Mary Guenther is the Head of Space Policy at the Progressive Policy Institute. In this role, Mary focuses on evaluating and developing policy solutions that address how the United States government's relationship with space actors should evolve and how to best harness the benefits of space for people here on Earth. Prior to joining PPI, Mary served as the Vice President of Space Policy at the Commercial Space Federation (CSF). There, Mary drove consensus on policy issues with about 90 member companies representing various facets of the commercial space economy and worked to get those policy solutions implemented. Prior to CSF, Mary served as a Professional Staff Member at the United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, focusing on space, science, emerging technology, cybersecurity, and manufacturing policy.



Danielle Steitz | Director of National Security Policy

Danielle Steitz is the Director of National Security Policy at the Progressive Policy Institute. Prior to joining PPI, Danielle served as a Policy and Strategy Analyst with the Joint Staff. She has also served as an Oversight Program Manager at U.S. Cyber Command, and as a staffer with the House Armed Services Committee. Danielle holds a master's degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College, and a bachelor's degree in international studies and political science from American University. She was awarded the Joint Meritorious Civilian Service Medal for her service and accomplishments on the Joint Staff.



John Michael Dieng | Government Relations Manager

John Michael Dieng is the Government Relations Manager for the Progressive Policy Institute. In this role, he assists with planning and executing PPI's political engagement and strategic initiatives with elected officials at the federal, state, and local levels. He previously managed and oversaw office operations for U.S. Representative Don Davis (NC-01), who serves as Vice Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Committee and a member of the House Committee on Agriculture.



Shaefer Bagwell | Legislative Director for Rep. Suhas Subramanyam (D-VA)

Shaefer Bagwell currently serves as the Legislative Director to Rep. Suhas Subramanyam of Virginia's 10th District. Over 11 years on Capitol Hill, he has worked for members of the California delegation in both the House and Senate, as well as then-Rep. Mikie Sherrill of New Jersey. Shaefer's policy work has focused primarily on defense and foreign affairs issues, with a concentration on munitions development, emerging defense technologies, and international security matters. Shaefer holds a BA in Political Science from Biola University in La Mirada, California. He was born and raised in Sacramento, CA, and has lived in Washington, DC since 2015. In his free time, he enjoys reading, cooking, learning about wine, and making fun of his dog.



Chi Chukwuka | Legislative Director for Rep. Wesley Bell (D-MO)

Chi Chukwuka is the Legislative Director for Congressman Wesley Bell, bringing a dynamic and strategic approach to legislative affairs in Washington, D.C. A dedicated political professional, Chi holds a bachelor's degree in political science with a specialization in Government and Law and a minor in Political Communication from Colorado State University. He further honed his expertise with a master's in political management from George Washington University. Chi's passion for public service and governance has been shaped by a range of influences, from the values instilled by his parents to the inspirational leadership of former President Barack Obama. His academic and professional experiences have given him a deep understanding of politics, policy, and communication, allowing him to navigate the complexities of legislative strategy effectively. Committed to meaningful impact, Chi continues to leverage his expertise to advance policies that serve the public good while contributing to the broader political landscape.



John M. Cooper | Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director for Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA)

John serves as Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director for Congresswoman Doris Matsui, Ranking Member of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology. He has worked for Congresswoman Matsui for four years and previously served in the Virginia House of Delegates, the D.C. Department of Health, and then-Congressman Jared Polis's office. A graduate of the University of Colorado Boulder, John lives in Washington, D.C., with his fiancé and their dog.



Katy Foley | Legislative Director for Rep. Brittany Pettersen (D-CO)

Katy Foley has built a career across Capitol Hill, state government, and statewide political campaigns. She currently serves as Legislative Director for Rep. Brittany Pettersen (D-CO), a role she assumed after serving Rep. April McClain Delaney (D-MD) as Senior Policy Adviser and Senior Legislative Assistant. She began her congressional work in 2023 as a Legislative Assistant to Rep. Pettersen. Before coming to the Hill, Katy worked on the policy and legislative team for Gov. Jared Polis in the Colorado Governor's Office. Her earlier experience includes campaign operations, an internship with Rep. Diana DeGette, and roles within the State of Colorado.



Michelle Galdamez | Legislative Director for Rep. Emily Randall (D-WA)

Michelle Galdamez is proudly the new Legislative Director for Congresswoman Emily Randall (WA-06). She most recently served as Health Policy Director for Congresswoman Robin Kelly (IL-02), Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust and a Senior Member of the House Committee on Energy & Commerce. Before her time in the House, Michelle was the Health and Labor Legislative Assistant for now-retired Senator Ben Cardin (D-Maryland). Galdamez received a dual Master of Public Health (MPH) and a Master of Public Administration (MPA) at Texas Tech University.



Yannick Gill | Legislative Director for Rep. Christian Menefee (D-TX)

Yannick Gill serves as the Legislative Director for U.S. Representative Christian Menefee who represents the 18th district of Texas. Immediately prior, Gill was Senior Counsel at Human Rights First where he advanced congressional efforts to reinforce the U.S.'s commitment to human rights and refugee protection to include ICE detention oversight. Prior, Yannick served as a legislative advisor to Representatives Summer Lee and Madeleine Dean. Yannick earned a J.D. from Howard University School of Law and a B.A. with Honors in Latin American Literature and Culture from Valdosta State University.



Walter Gonzales | Deputy Chief of Staff for Rep. Glenn Ivey (D-MD)

Walter currently serves as Deputy Chief of Staff to Congressman Glenn F. Ivey. Walter's portfolio covers the Appropriations Committee as well as defense, homeland security and judiciary issues. As Deputy Chief of Staff Walter handles big picture policy and political issues. Approaching near 30 years of experiences, Walter worked for Congressman C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger for 22 years which helped foster a deep understanding of the budget and appropriations process as well as a deep commitment to intelligence and defense issue. A native of Baltimore Maryland, Walter currently resides in Washington D.C.



Emily Hartshorn | Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Gabe Vasquez (D-NM)

Emily Hartshorn is a Senior Legislative Assistant for Representative Gabe Vasquez (NM-02), where she leads the Congressman's work on public lands, agriculture, healthcare, energy, and natural resources. A proud New Mexican and Lobo, she is passionate about protecting public lands, expanding access to affordable healthcare, and advancing sustainable agriculture policy that create good jobs while preserving New Mexico's natural and cultural heritage. Emily is proud to serve the state that raised her and is committed to ensuring New Mexicans have a meaningful voice in the nation's Capitol, which she has done during her tenure with Rep. Vasquez as well as in the offices of Senator Heinrich and Rep. Stansbury.



Demarquin Johnson | Legislative Director for Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA)

Demarquin Johnson serves as Legislative Director in the Office of Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA-07). In this role, he develops and implements the Member's legislative agenda in partnership with local, state, national, and global stakeholders. Demarquin is an alumnus of Howard University, Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and Harvard Law School.



Christian Kerr | Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Robert Garcia (D-CA)

Christian Kerr grew up in Long Beach, California and graduated from Western Colorado University with degrees in political science and history in 2018. He worked for a member of the City Council before taking a position in the office of then-Mayor Robert Garcia during the Covid-19 pandemic. When Garcia was elected to Congress in 2022, he started a role on the Congressman's legislative team where he covers appropriations, healthcare, energy and environment, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.



Maddie Mitchell | Deputy Chief of Staff for Rep. Jennifer Kiggans (R-VA)

Maddie is the Deputy Chief of Staff for Congresswoman Jen Kiggans (VA-02) of Southeast Virginia. In her role, Maddie manages the Congresswoman's DC team as well as specializes in a small portfolio of issues, including space, defense, and energy. Maddie steers the Congresswoman's long term policy priorities and communications strategy, as well as runs day to day operations of the Washington, DC office. A native of Indianapolis, Indiana, Maddie completed her undergraduate degree at Indiana University in political science and Germanic languages. Maddie graduated from Georgetown University with a Master's degree in foreign affairs and European studies. Prior to working for Congresswoman Kiggans, Maddie was the Legislative Director for Congressman Trey Hollingsworth (IN-09).



Kaitlyn Mullen | Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Julia Letlow (R-LA)

Kaitlyn Mullen currently serves as a Senior Legislative Assistant to Rep. Julia Letlow (R-LA), where she manages the Congresswoman's Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations portfolio. Prior to joining Rep. Letlow's office, Kaitlyn served as Legislative Assistant to former Rep. Marc Molinaro (R-NY) and managed a policy portfolio that included defense and artificial intelligence. A native of Staten Island, New York, Kaitlyn began her Hill career in 2021 in the office of her hometown Congresswoman, Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY). She earned a B.A. in Global Studies with a minor in Political Science from Loyola University Maryland in Baltimore.



Scott Watson | Legislative Director for Rep. Gabe Evans (R-CO)

Scott Watson currently serves as Legislative Director for Congressman Gabe Evans. Rep. Evans serves on the prestigious Energy and Commerce Committee with jurisdiction over 70% of the US economy. In addition to handling this portfolio, Scott also manages Space and Defense policy for the Congressman, who represents a growing aerospace hub in Colorado. Scott previously worked as a legislative staffer for Rep. Mike Garcia, who as a member of the SST Committee and the CJS Appropriations Subcommittee was both an authorizer and appropriator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Scott is originally from California and attended the University of California - San Diego.



Griffin Wong | Legislative Director for Rep. Kelly Morrison (D-MN)

Griffin Wong serves as Legislative Director in the office of Congresswoman Kelly Morrison. He previously served as Legislative Director for Congressman Dean Phillips (D-MN-03), Legislative Aide in the Office of Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), and as a Senior Fiscal Policy Analyst in the Massachusetts State Senate. Griffin graduated from Boston College with a Philosophy degree.

All times are local

Tuesday, August 18, 2026

7:00 AM ET - 9:35 AM PDT	Departure Flight from Washington, DC (IAD) to Los Angeles (LAX) UA 319 Dulles International Airport (IAD) to Los Angeles (LAX) Staff Contact: John Michael Dieng
9:35 - 10:30 AM	Deplane/Grab Bags
10:30 - 10:45 AM	Bus to Varda Space Industries
10:45 AM - 1:15 PM	Tour of Varda Space Industries and Lunch Location: 225 S Aviation Blvd, El Segundo, CA 90245
1:15 - 1:30 PM	Bus to Impulse Space
1:30 - 3:00 PM	Tour of Impulse Space Location: 2651 Manhattan Beach Blvd, Redondo Beach, CA 90278
3:00 - 3:30 PM	Bus to CSU Long Beach
3:30 - 4:45 PM	Tour CSU Long Beach
4:45 - 5:15 PM	Bus to Hotel
5:15 - 6:30 PM	Executive Time
7:00 - 8:30 PM	Dinner Location: Ballast Point Brewing (110 N Marina Dr, Long Beach, CA 90803)

All times are local

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

8:00 - 9:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 - 9:30 AM	Bus to Rocket Lab
9:30 - 11:15 AM	Tour of Rocket Lab Location: 3881 McGowen St, Long Beach, CA 90808
11:15 - 11:30 AM	Bus to Vast
11:30 AM - 2:00 PM	Tour of Vast Space and Lunch Location: 2851 Orange Ave, Long Beach, CA 90806
2:00 - 2:15 PM	Travel to K2 Space Corporation
2:15 - 4:00 PM	Tour K2 Space Corporation
4:00 - 4:30 PM	Travel to Hotel
4:30 - 6:30 PM	Executive Time
7:00 - 9:00 PM	Dinner with Long Beach Mayor and Local Space Executives Location: Ruth's Chris

Thursday, August 20, 2026

7:00 - 8:00 AM	Breakfast
8:00 - 8:45 AM	Travel to LAX
10:47 AM - 6:50 PM	Return Flight from Los Angeles (LAX) to Washington, DC (IAD)



Will Bruey | Co-Founder and CEO, Varda

Will is CEO and Co-Founder of Varda Space Industries, a microgravity-enabled life sciences company whose hypersonic reentry capsules leverage the unique environment of microgravity in low-Earth orbit. Prior to Varda, Will served as Director of Global Equities Technology at Bank of America. He was the lead avionics engineer at SpaceX and flew Dragon on eight missions to the International Space Station. Will holds a B.S. in Applied Physics from Cornell and a master's in Systems Engineering. He was raised in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and his hobbies include flying and maintaining his Cozy MK4 aircraft.



Josh Martin | VP of Government Affairs, Varda

Josh Martin heads the Washington, D.C. office for Varda Space Industries, focusing on federal, state, and local government engagement and managing international partnerships. Prior to joining Varda, Martin was Senior Vice President at one of the top defense lobbying firms in Washington, DC, American Defense International. Martin also served as the Chief of Staff for the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Committee, Mac Thornberry, for over a decade. Prior to that, he held a number of policy focused staff roles in both the U.S. House and U.S. Senate. A fifth-generation Texan, Josh Martin attended the University of Texas at Austin and American University, studying political science and peace and conflict resolution and holds a bachelor's degree in Government.



James Thomas | Senior Director of Government Affairs, Varda

James Thomas currently serves as Senior Director for Government Affairs at Varda Space Industries. Previously, he was Director, National Security for Leidos Government Affairs. Before joining Leidos, James was the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Senate Affairs, responsible for advocating the Department's policies, strategies, and annual budget to the United States Congress, and served as a principal representative and spokesperson on legislative and resourcing priorities. Before his time in the Pentagon, James held numerous positions throughout government and the private sector, including as Legislative Director to Congressman Duncan D. Hunter from San Diego, a member of the House Armed Services Committee. James was an enlisted Marine Infantry combat veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF I and OIF IV). He is a graduate of the University of Dayton.



Muk Pandian | Director of Advanced Concepts, Varda

Muk Pandian is Director of Advanced Concepts at Varda Space Industries, where he draws on his technical and business development expertise. In this role, he leverages flight-proven commercial spacecraft and reentry technology to address national security and commercial space needs; enabling missions once deemed too challenging or costly. Prior to joining Varda he spent 13 years with Northrop Grumman in multiple technical and business roles across the Aerospace portfolio. Muk holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California.



Sarah Herschede, Ph.D | Portfolio Manager, Varda

Sarah Herschede serves as Portfolio Manager at Varda Space Industries, where she is responsible for developing strategy and managing partnerships to advance in-space manufacturing of pharmaceutical products. Prior to joining Varda, she worked at the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), supporting the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) portfolio, with a focus on advancing novel products and repurposing existing pharmaceuticals for the Chemical Medical Countermeasures Program. Sarah holds a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Tulane University, where she applied her expertise in synthetic and supramolecular chemistry to develop novel antibiotics.



Augusta Binns-Berkey | Director of Government Relations and National Security Policy, Impulse Space

Augusta Binns-Berkey is a Director of Government Relations and National Security Policy at Impulse Space, responsible for building and maintaining strong working relationships with the Space Force, the Intelligence Community, and oversight bodies from the White House to Congress. She was previously the senior advisor to the first and second Chiefs of Space Operations, as well as the Director for Space Policy on the National Security Council staff. She also led the congressional appropriations liaison team for the Space Force and Air Force. Prior to her time at the Pentagon, she was a professional staff member on the Senate Armed Services Committee, where her portfolio included space policy and programs, nuclear policy and programs, arms control, and missile defense.



Erin Shaw | Mission Manager, Impulse Space

Erin Shaw is an Impulse Mission Manager with 20 years of experience translating the missions the USG needs to do in space into the spacecraft designs and hardware that perform those missions. She has her B.S. and M.S degrees in Aerospace Engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, where she had the opportunity to design and launch cube sats. Outside of work, Erin enjoys reading, yoga, and spending time in the mountains of Southern California with her family.



Cole Winkler | Mission Manager, Impulse Space

Cole Winkler is an Impulse Mission Manager based in Los Angeles, California. A native of Atlanta, he earned his degree in Industrial Engineering from Clemson University in 2021 before beginning his career in the space industry. He spent three years at Nanoracks, followed by a stint at Lynk Global, gaining hands-on experience across several launch vehicles at satellite classes. At Impulse, Cole supports Helios and Mira operations.



Raphael Perrino | Business Development Manager, Impulse Space

Raphael Perrino is a Business Development Manager at Impulse Space, responsible for growing the company's upper stage vehicle transportation business with the U.S. Space Force. Previously, he worked in strategic business development at ABL Space Systems; market analysis and competitive intelligence at Virgin Orbit; and private capital, performance, and cost-schedule analysis at BryceTech in support of the NASA Office of the Chief Financial Officer and the Space Technology Mission Directorate. Raphael holds an M.A. in International Science and Technology Policy with an emphasis in Space Policy from George Washington University and an M.S. and B.S. in Technical and Scientific Communication from James Madison University.



Nick Barracca | Senior Manager for Regulatory Affairs, Impulse Space

Nick Barracca is a Senior Manager for Regulatory Affairs at Impulse Space, where he is responsible for identifying, mitigating, and managing regulatory and compliance risk across the company, including all Federal Communications Commission licensing processes. He previously held similar positions at Capella Space and Firefly Aerospace. He holds an undergraduate degree from the George Washington University and a Master of Global Policy Studies from the University of Texas at Austin LBJ School of Public Affairs.



Dr. Jinny Rhee | Dean of Engineering, CSU

Dr. Jinny Rhee joined the Beach as the Dean of Engineering in July 2021, bringing years of experience developing innovative student success and faculty development programs and forging strong relationships with industry leaders, alumni, and community partners. Dr. Rhee comes to CSULB from San Jose State University, where, as Associate Dean of the Charles W. Davidson College of Engineering, she led programs that raised graduation rates, assisted with strategic planning, and administered the \$1.8 million Silicon Valley Engineering Scholarship program. She was involved in over \$9.2 million in philanthropy to the SJSU College of Engineering and its affiliated programs, engaging corporate, alumni, and community partners. She joined San Jose State as an Assistant Professor in 2002. Dr. Rhee received her B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees, all in mechanical engineering, from Stanford University. Her research interests include renewable energy, thermal management, and student success strategies, particularly for engineering and STEM majors. She is the author of numerous peer-reviewed articles on engineering education, student success, and mechanical engineering.



Dr. Mahdi Yoozbashidazeh | Associate Professor of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, CSU

Dr. Mahdi Yoozbashidazeh joined the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at California State University, Long Beach in Fall 2013. He received his Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering with the focus on Manufacturing, in 2012, an MS degree in Manufacturing Engineering, in 2009, and an MS degree in Mechanical Engineering Design, in 2007, all from University of Southern California (USC). He also worked as a lecturer and research associate in the field of Additive Manufacturing at USC on a project funded by NSF. He teaches undergraduate and graduate classes in the areas of Design, CAD/CAM, Manufacturing Processes, and Design of Experiments. He is the course coordinator for Design and manufacturing classes. Dr. Yoozbashidazeh is a licensed Professional Engineer (PE) in the State of California, specializing in Machine Design and Materials. Dr. Yoozbashidazeh's research focuses on Liquid Rockets, Additive Manufacturing, 3D- Printing of Metals, Product Development, Design of Experiments, and Process/Product Improvement and Optimization.



Dr. Kim-Phuong L. Vu | Professor of Human Factors Psychology, CSULB

Kim-Phuong L. Vu is Professor of Psychology at California State University Long Beach (CSULB). She is Associate Director of the Center for Usability in Design and Accessibility and the Center for Human Factors in Advanced Aeronautics Technologies at CSULB. Dr. Vu has over 150 publications in areas relating to human performance, human factors, and human-computer interaction. She is co-author of the book Stimulus-Response Compatibility Principles: Data, Theory, and Application and co-editor of the Handbook of Human Factors in Web Design (2nd ed.). Dr. Vu is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association (Divisions 3: Experimental Psychology and 21: Applied Experimental and Engineering Psychology), the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, and the Psychonomic Society.



Frank Klein | Chief Operations Officer, Rocket Lab

As Chief Operations Officer, Frank Klein leads Rocket Lab's efforts to scale manufacturing of its spacecraft, launch vehicles, and spacecraft components across multiple sites to meet growing customer demand. Prior to joining the Rocket Lab team, Mr. Klein served Daimler AG (now Mercedes-Benz Group) for 27 years where he led various business divisions including Vehicle Research, Trucks, Cars, and Van manufacturing. While Vice President of Mercedes-Benz Vans Operations, Mr Klein managed global production across 12 production sites, heading up logistics, industrial engineering, and the division's quality department, with responsibility for more than 14,000 employees globally. Mr Klein also served as President of Magna Steyr AG, the automotive industry's largest independent contract manufacturer with an annual turnover of more than US\$6 billion, where he led operations across three continents and 13,000 employees globally. Most recently Mr Klein served as COO at Rivian Automotive, where he helped to transform Rivian from a low volume automotive start-up to a high volume premium electric vehicle manufacture while responsible for 9,000+ employees. Mr Klein holds a Masters' Degree in Electrical and Industrial Engineering from Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University Stuttgart and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from FernUniversität in Hagen.



Richard French | Vice President, Business Development and Strategy, Space Systems, Rocket Lab

Richard French leads business development and strategy for Rocket Lab's space systems division, providing end-to-end mission services and on-orbit operations with the company's Photon family of small spacecraft and high-end satellite components including propulsion, reaction wheels, star trackers, avionics, solar arrays, and more. Richard spent over a decade at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where he led development of the Techstars Starburst Space Accelerator program and managed technology partnerships with industry in the Office of Space Technology. He also spent two years on detail to NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. as a Staff Technologist in the Space Technology Mission Directorate, leading development of the Tipping Point and Announcement of Collaborative Opportunity solicitations. Richard's earlier career includes service as an engineer on various NASA missions, including being awarded the NASA Honors Early Career Public Achievement Medal for his work as a lead mechanical systems engineer on the Soil Moisture Active Passive mission, and helping to land the Curiosity Rover on Mars as a member of the Mars Science Laboratory entry, descent, and landing systems engineering team. Richard holds a Masters degree in Space Systems Engineering and a Bachelors degree in Aerospace Engineering, both from the University of Michigan.



Grace Casey | Senior Manager of Government Operations, Rocket Lab

In her role as Senior Manager of Government Operations, Grace Casey helps develop and execute Rocket Lab's federal government strategy. She represents Rocket Lab's priorities before Congress on matters including national security, civil, and commercial space. Mrs. Casey also assists in Rocket Lab's engagement with industry associations. Prior to joining Rocket Lab, she worked for Congressman Don Beyer (VA-08) for over six and a half years, where she served in a variety of positions, including supporting his work as Chairman of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee, as well as managing a legislative portfolio including defense, transportation, and appropriations. Mrs. Casey holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Elon University.



Caryn Schenewerk | Chief Policy Officer, Vast Space

Caryn Schenewerk serves as Vast's Chief Policy Officer since February 2026. Prior to joining Vast, she served as President of CS Consulting LLC, a space law and public policy consulting firm. From 2020 to 2023, she served as Vice President of Regulatory & Government Affairs of Relativity Space, a medium-to-heavy lift reusable rocket and launch services provider. Caryn started her career in aerospace at SpaceX where she served as Senior Counsel and Director of Spaceflight Policy. Caryn holds a Bachelor of Arts from Austin College and a J.D. from The University of Texas School of Law where she teaches as an adjunct professor having co-authored, International Space Laws and Space Laws of the United States.



Karan Kunjur | CEO and Co-Founder, K2 Space

Karan has fifteen years of experience building and growing businesses from idea through to exit. Most recently, Karan led commercialization at Text IQ, an Artificial Intelligence (AI) startup, helping scale it from seed stage through a nine-figure exit via a strategic acquisition. As part of that effort, he built a commercial team from zero to 20 personnel and helped grow the company from 20-100 employees over two years. Text IQ raised over \$20M in investment from leading venture capital funds such as FirstMark Capital, Floodgate Capital, Sierra Ventures, and Intel Capital. Prior to his time at Text IQ, Karan spent ten years building new businesses for Fortune 500 clients at the Boston Consulting Group (BCG). He specializes in rapidly scaling up new businesses and dealing with all of the challenges that come with early-stage ventures, including financing, hiring, and operating. Karan is a graduate of Northwestern University, with a triple major in math, economics, and international studies, and he earned his MBA from INSEAD, attending both the Fontainebleau and Singapore campuses.



Corey Jacobson | Director of Strategy and Policy, K2 Space

Corey served for over a decade in the federal government, where he drove investment in and adoption of emerging technologies. Most recently, he was the Chief of Staff of the Defense Department's Office of Strategic Capital and supported the launch of financial products to provide over \$5 billion to companies developing critical technologies. He also served as Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy and led the development of the Department's first Commercial Space Integration Strategy. Prior to joining the Biden administration, Corey helped stand up U.S. Naval Forces Central Command's Task Force 59 to integrate unmanned and A.I. systems into the fleet and served as the Legislative Director for Congressman Ted Lieu (CA-36). Corey currently serves as an intelligence officer in the Navy Reserve supporting U.S. Space Command and a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council. A California native, he completed his master's in global politics at the London School of Economics, his bachelor's in business economics at the George Washington University, and his Joint Professional Military Education at Air Command and Staff College. Corey is a recipient of the Joint Service Commendation Medal and the Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service for his service in uniform and as a civilian, respectively. He lives in Virginia with his wife and two children.



Matthew Croce | Head of Defense, K2 Space

Matt is a veteran who served 26 years on active duty. His service in the Marine Corps (AH-1W pilot) and Army Special Operations Aviation (AH-6M pilots) included a 4-year joint tour with the SEAL Special Mission Unit in Dam Neck, Virginia, and comprised 24 combat deployments in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations. Matt retired from active duty in 2017 and earned a M.S. in Management from the Stanford Graduate School of Business, graduating in the top 10% of his class. Prior to joining K2 Space, Matthew was the Director of Flight Operations and Head of DoD engagement at Kitty Hawk Corporation, developing a dual-use (military and commercial) electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft, and managing SBIR and Other Transaction for Prototype (OTP) contracts with AFRL through the Agility Prime program.



Rex Richardson | Mayor, Long Beach, CA

Mayor Rex Richardson is the 29th Mayor of Long Beach, California, and the city's first African American mayor. He has made economic development and innovation central to his agenda, including positioning Long Beach as a national hub for aerospace and commercial space, known as "Space Beach". Under his leadership, the city established the Long Beach Space Beach Council to bring together industry, academia, workforce partners, and government to advance the local space economy. Richardson has championed attracting major aerospace and space companies to Long Beach while creating high-quality jobs and expanding opportunities for local residents. His broader Grow Long Beach initiative identifies aerospace, advanced manufacturing, and other emerging industries as key drivers of the city's future economic growth.

The background of the entire page is a high-resolution photograph of Earth as seen from space. The top half of the image is a deep, dark blue representing the void of space, filled with numerous small, distant stars. The bottom half shows the curved horizon of the Earth, with a thin layer of white clouds and a vibrant blue atmosphere. Below the horizon, the dark, textured surface of the planet is visible, showing landmasses and oceans.

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