

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CALIFORNIA APPOINTS AEROSPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
LT. GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI NAMES AEROSPACE LEADERS AS ADVISORS**

**LOS ANGELES** -- Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi announced today the formation of a new Aerospace Advisory Committee under the recently reorganized California Commission on Economic Development. The announcement was made to attendees of the California Space Authority's (CSA) Transforming Space 2007 Conference.

Garamendi spoke to the group of space enterprise leaders and professionals from both government and commercial sectors on the problems facing the state in terms of current and future workforce shortages. "We need your help," he said, thanking CSA for its leadership in providing his office, the governor's office, the legislature and the federal administration with information relative to the kinds of skill sets and educational preparation students today need to fill the industry's jobs in the future.

"Your industry is very important," said the lieutenant governor referring to the impact of the aerospace industry on the California economy. Citing a reported 265,500 jobs and \$21.8 billion in annual revenues, Garamendi pronounced, "You're a big deal."

Advisory group appointees are Celeste Ford, President/ CEO, Stellar Solutions, Inc.; Susan Sloan, Vice President, Performance Excellence, Space and Airborne Systems, Raytheon Company; Mark Sirangelo, CEO/ Vice Chairman, SpaceDev; Brigadier General Leonard F. Kwiatkowski, Vice President, Military Space Program, Lockheed Martin; John Daegele, Vice President, Production and Supply Chain Northrop Grumman Space Technology; and Andrea Seastrand, Executive Director, California Space Authority.

"It's a pleasure to be recognized for our leadership in the space enterprise community in this way," noted Andrea Seastrand. "We all look forward to working with the Commission and the Lieutenant Governor to address state needs with space-based applications."

"I'm delighted to be appointed to this group and I look forward to working with the Lieutenant Governor in support of the aerospace industry and the economic welfare of California," added Gen. Kwiatkowski.

The lieutenant governor lamented the dismal forecast by the Public Policy Institute of California, a private, non-profit research organization, on the future of the state's workforce. He shared that projections for 2025 estimate that the state will have need of five million college graduates but will only produce slightly more than two million. "California, we've got a problem," Garamendi said. "We're not going to get there with the kind of investment [in education] we are making today," he added. Garamendi said that both he and Governor Schwarzenegger are focused on college and career technical education (CTE) challenges.

Garamendi also expressed frustration with the fact that many foreign students graduating from California universities cannot get visas to remain in the U.S. to work. He believes the nation has policy problems in that regard that need to be solved. The Aerospace Advisory Group will have its first meeting soon to discuss strategies for encouraging STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and CTE curriculum at the elementary levels and, as Garamendi put it, to help those just starting school today to "explore in their minds."

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*California Space Authority is a nonprofit organization supporting California's commercial, civil and national security space stakeholders. Governed by a statewide board of directors, CSA works closely with the State of California, industry, other government, education, workforce entities and academia to support space enterprise development and expansion statewide.*