

Akin™

Space Law, Regulation and Policy Update

February 07, 2025

[Subscribe](#) | [Share](#)   

Good Afternoon!

U.S. Chamber launches space leadership council, Crew 9 has to stay...just a little bit longer, and new executive orders spur reviews, revisions and other activity across U.S. space agencies, and Akin's Micheal Mineiro [explores the foundations of space law](#) in a slick video from Space Beach Law Lab.

All this and more in this week's edition of Akin's Space Law, Regulation and Policy newsletter.

Akin Spotlight

Akin's [Trump Executive Order Tracker](#) provides a high-level overview of executive orders published by the new administration. These orders cut across dozens of industries and topics. The Tracker is updated as orders and Akin's in-depth analysis of specific orders are published.

Please visit Akin's [Trump Executive Order Overview](#) to view a matrix of the orders.

On The Hill

Articles and Quotes

Chairman Babin Announces SST Subcommittee Rosters and Leadership (House Science, Space and Technology)

House Committee on Science, Space and Technology Chair Brian Babin (R-TX) and Ranking Member Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) have released subcommittee rosters and leadership for the 119th Congress. The Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, which has jurisdiction over national space policy and commercial space activities, is Chaired by Mike Haridopolos (R-FL), with Valerie Foushee (D-NC) sitting as Ranking Member. The full Subcommittee roster for Republicans can be found [here](#), and for Democrats [here](#).

Collins, Murray Announce Appropriations Subcommittees Leadership and Rosters for the 119th Congress (Senate Appropriations)

Senate Appropriations Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) and Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA) have also released subcommittee rosters and leadership for this Congress. The Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Subcommittee, which has funding jurisdiction over the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and other science-driven agencies, is Chaired by Jerry Moran (R-KS) with Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) sitting as Ranking Member. Sens. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Chris Coons (D-DE) will lead the Defense Subcommittee.

Introduced Legislation & Legislative Updates

On January 28, the Senate **confirmed** Sean Duffy as Secretary of Transportation.

On February 5, the Senate Commerce, Science and Technology Committee **voted** 16-12 in favor of advancing the nomination of Howard Lutnick to be Secretary of Commerce to the full Senate.

Please find our Space Legislation Tracker [here](#).

Recent and Upcoming Congressional Hearings (Feb 7, 2025 - Feb 21, 2025)

No relevant hearings scheduled.

In the White House/Executive Branch



Articles and Quotes

NASA Pauses Work of Science Groups, Citing Trump Executive Orders (Space News)

NASA has instructed several science advisory groups to pause all activities, citing executive orders from the Trump administration. The orders require agencies to reassess the function and necessity of advisory committees, prompting NASA to halt meetings while it reviews compliance. At least one scheduled meeting has already been canceled, and further delays could impact discussions on upcoming missions and scientific priorities. The extent of the pause and its potential effects on NASA's broader science programs remain unclear.

US Chamber Launches Space Leadership Council (Payload)

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has launched a Space Leadership Council to advocate for commercial space interests in Congressional policy discussions. The council will focus on regulatory issues, congressional engagement, and input on national security space policy. Key topics for the new body to lobby on may include FAA Part 450 regulations, a NASA authorization bill, and the Artemis program. The council, which aims to represent the industry as whole, will be led by Amazon public policy VP Brian Huseman and ICEYE U.S. CEO Eric Jensen.

Risk of Falling Space Junk Impacting Planes Is Growing, Researchers Warn (CBS)

A recent report from researchers from the University of British Columbia warns that increases in space debris reentries and aircraft flights may pose a collision risk. While the report authors note that the odds of a collision between reentered debris and a plane remains small, the risk is poised to grow alongside the proliferation of space debris, especially large trackable objects such as rocket bodies. The report further recommends instituting controlled reentries for rocket bodies, which it claims is a characteristic of less than 35% of modern launches.

NASA Rules Out Immediate Crew-9 Return, Saying Astronauts Will Come Back “As Soon as Practical” (Space News)

NASA has ruled out an immediate return for Crew-9 astronauts, citing ongoing safety protocols and mission readiness. The agency emphasized that the crew will return as soon as it is practical, with plans depending on space weather conditions and spacecraft status. The decision comes just after President Trump instructed Elon Musk to “go get” the two astronauts who have been stuck on the International Space Station (ISS) since June 2024. They are currently slated to return in April.

Trump Wants an Iron Dome for America. How the Space Force Is Key to Making It Happen (Air and Space Forces)

President Trump has directed the Pentagon to create a plan for defending the United States from missile attacks, focusing on space-based interceptors. The Executive Order titled “The Iron Dome for America” emphasizes missile defense against intercontinental ballistic, hypersonic and cruise missiles, calling for the incorporation of the Space Development Agency’s satellites and Hypersonic and Ballistic Tracking Space Sensor satellites (HBTSS), among others tech. The order also suggests new missile interception systems, with a focus on integrating space capabilities into missile defense.

Missile Defense Agency Asks Industry for American ‘Iron Dome’ Concepts (Breaking Defense)

The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) has requested industry proposals for President Trump’s Iron Dome, seeking missile defense solutions deployed in phases from 2026 through 2030 and beyond, targeting ballistic, hypersonic and cruise missile threats. The request includes space-based interceptors, advanced tracking sensors and nonkinetic defenses. The order also revives the previously sidelined HBTSS program. Questions remain about which agency will operate future space-based interceptors called for by the President’s order.

Federal Agency Space News

U.S. Space Force

DAF Releases Memorandum on Implementation of Executive Order 14168, Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism, Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government (February 4, 2025)

Department of the Air Force Releases Memorandum on Initial Return to In-Person Work Implementation Plan (February 1, 2025)

Department of the Air Force Releases Memorandum on Cultural Observance Guidance (January 31, 2025)

DAF Releases Memorandum on Equal Employment Opportunity, Military Equal Opportunity Programs Continuation in Compliance with Executive Orders and Federal Laws (January 30, 2025)

Department of the Air Force Releases Memorandum on Federal Civilian Hiring Freeze
(January 24, 2025)

Department of Defense

Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth's Guidance on Restoring America's Fighting Force
(January 29, 2025)

Department of Defense Statement Clarifying Defense Contracting (January 28, 2025)

Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth Begins 'Most Important Deployment of My Life'
(January 25, 2025)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

NASA Presses Forward Search for VIPER Moon Rover Partner (February 3, 2025)

NASA Langley 2024 Annual Report (January 28, 2025)

International

Articles & Quotes

Leveraging Space Technology for Agricultural Development and Food Security (UNOOSA)

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), in conjunction with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), has released the report titled "Leveraging Space Technology for Agricultural Development and Food Security." The report walks through the developing role of space technologies in agriculture, space observation's current role in the agriculture value chain, and outlook for innovation between the two sectors.

Check out below for comment opportunities, requests for proposals, notices of proposed rulemaking and a look at the week ahead in space events:

Comment Opportunities (RFIs)

Southeast Regional Architecture Engineering 2 (SERAE 2) Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Contract

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Close Date: Feb 13, 2025

HyperSTEP Hot Structure

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Close Date: Feb 18, 2025

Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

Advanced Spacesuit Regulator

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Feb 12, 2025

NASA Agency-wide Supply of Liquid and Gaseous Helium

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Feb 12, 2025

Amendment 12-SEWP VI Final RFP (6th Generation of Solutions for Enterprise-Wide Procurements)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Feb 19, 2025

Mission Technical Integration Contract (MTIC)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: March 4, 2025

Mobile Shelter Structure for Lunar Lander

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: March 5, 2025

Notices of Proposed Rulemakings (NPRMs)

No new proposed rules.

Upcoming Space Events

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee Session

U.N. Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

February 3-14, 2025

Defense and Intelligence Space Conference

National Security Space Association

February 10-12, 2025

Cislunar PNT Workshop

International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG), Interagency Operations Advisory Group (IOAG)

February 11-13, 2025

Commercial Space Conference

FAA-AST, Commercial Space Federation

February 12, 2025

Building an In-Space Circular Economy

NOAA Office of Space Commerce (OSC), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

February 13, 2025

Luncheon with NASA IV&V Director

Maryland Space Business Roundtable
February 19, 2025

Business of Space Conference

University of Alabama Huntsville
February 23-25, 2025

Global Space Technology Convention and Exhibition

Singapore Space and Technology Ltd
February 26-27, 2025

AscendXTexas

American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)
February 26-27, 2025

IEEE Aerospace Conference

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), AIAA
March 1-8, 2025

Space Traffic Management Conference

International Academy of Astronautics
March 4-5, 2025

Lunar and Planetary Science Conference

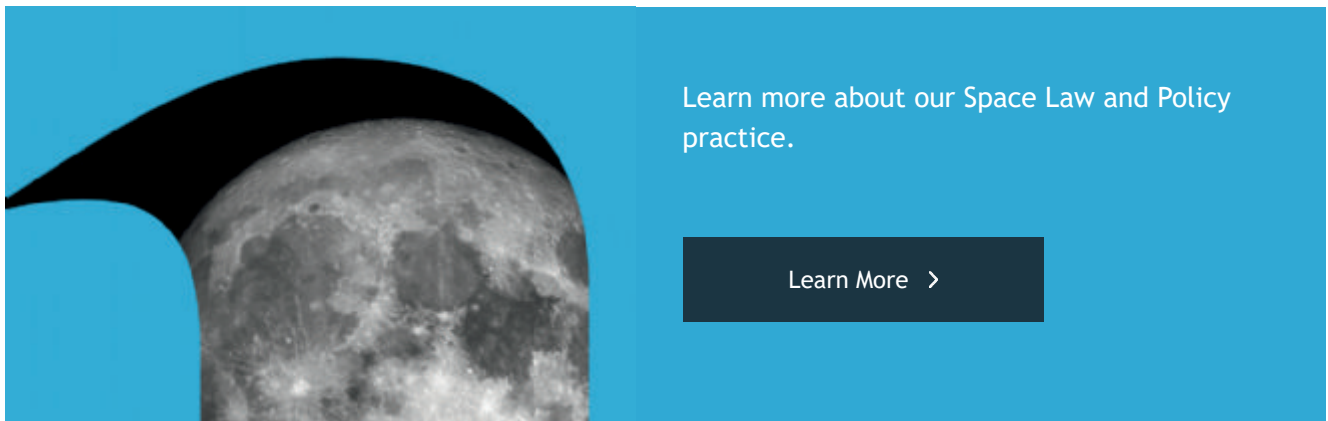
Lunar and Planetary Institute
March 10-14, 2025

Farnborough International Space Show

Farnborough International
March 19-20, 2025

Space Beach Law Lab

Space Beach Law Lab
March 25-27, 2025



Learn more about our Space Law and Policy practice.

[Learn More >](#)

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact:

Authors



Michael C. Mineiro
Space Policy & Regulation
[Email](#)
+1 202.887.4068



Thomas J. McCarthy
International Trade
[Email](#)
+1 202.887.4047



Carlos M. Bermudez
Corporate
[Email](#)
+1 310.728.3320



Jennifer L. Richter
Telecom, Media & Technology
[Email](#)
+1 202.887.4524



Hans C. Rickhoff
Lobbying & Public Policy
[Email](#)
+1 202.887.4145



Steve A. Rowings
Telecom, Media & Technology
[Email](#)
+1 202.887.4412



Marta A. Thompson
Government Contracts
[Email](#)
+1 202.887.4055



Lamar Smith
Lobbying & Public Policy
[Email](#)
+1 202.887.4031

Contributors



Chase Hamilton
International Trade
[Email](#)
+1 202.887.4018

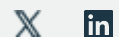


Sharanya Sriram
Telecom, Media & Technology
[Email](#)
+1 202.887.4278



Brandon Brodwater
Lobbying & Public Policy
[Email](#)
+1 202.416.5127

akingump.com



© 2025 Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. All rights reserved. Attorney advertising. This document is distributed for informational use only; it does not constitute legal advice and should not be used as such. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. Receipt of this information does not create an attorney-client relationship. Do not act upon this information without seeking professional counsel. All content is presented by Akin and cannot be copied or rebroadcasted without express written consent. Akin is the practicing name of Akin Gump LLP, a New York limited liability partnership authorized and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority under number 267321. A list of the partners is available for inspection at Eighth Floor, Ten Bishops Square, London E1 6EG. For more information about Akin Gump LLP, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP and other associated entities under which the Akin network operates worldwide, please see our [Legal Notices](#) page.

[Update Your Preferences](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Forward to a Friend](#) | [Legal Notices](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

This email was sent by: 2001 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006-1037