



## **ASA Resolution 109-104**

### **Importance of Maintaining Affordable and Assured Space Power**

WHEREAS, the nation's space enterprise is a strategic foundation for our country's economic well-being and technological vitality, as well as our overall global leadership and international standing;

WHEREAS, while the U.S. leads the world in space, there are numerous gaps in important space capabilities---the U.S. space industry is losing its competitive edge, our engagement and influence in international space activities has declined and there is widespread program overreach;

WHEREAS, the foundation of America's leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> century knowledge based, innovation-driven economy is built upon a scientific, technically qualified, and numerically literate workforce;

WHEREAS, the proportion of STEM related degrees has continually declined in disproportion to the number of STEM-qualified new entrants into the aerospace workforce that is projected to be insufficient to fill the workforce pipeline;

WHEREAS, the Defense Department may lose its edge in space because of policies that have led to the slow development of costly satellites and faces diminishing returns on "exquisite" satellites and systems which are sometimes obsolete by the time they get to the launch pad;

WHEREAS, space programs are suffering due to "requirements creep" and must be simplified; with our economic recession the nation cannot continue to afford the current acquisition process;

WHEREAS, the DoD's largest acquisition programs are on average two years behind schedule and have exceeded their original budgets by a combined total of almost \$300 billion;

WHEREAS, at a time of difficult and competing federal budgetary constraints and increased national security challenges, the Operationally Responsive Space (ORS) concept is a much more low-cost approach to augment existing space capabilities which creates additional business opportunities for U.S. industry and the U.S. space workforce;

WHEREAS, our troops in isolated and hard to reach regions rely on space assets for life-saving intelligence, communications and unmanned aerial vehicle support; utilizing the ORS concept can provide strategic response capabilities to help thwart unforeseen events or unanticipated gaps in space capabilities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ASA calls on Congress and DoD to continue to invest and increase funding for Operationally Responsive Space (ORS) in FY 10 and beyond to ensure that "assured space power focused on timely satisfaction of Joint Force Commanders' (JFCs) needs" can continue to be met while rapidly reconstituting and augmenting U.S. space capabilities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that adequate resources also be designated to ensure a balanced civil and military space program at a time when other countries are increasing their investments in space; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the President, Congress, and ASA continue their work to revamp and improve the export control system.

The Honorable Brian Dubie, Vermont Lt. Governor,  
Chair, Aerospace States Association