

March Storm General Report



Figure 1: L to R, Joe Gillen, Peter Brandt, Senator Ted Cruz, Amador Salinas

March 11-15, 2018

Contributors

Jeremy Wainscott, Amador Salinas, and Dale Skran

Published on May 19, 2018



Executive Summary

Following is the March Storm 2018 General Report. March Storm attendees participated in congressional office visits, meetings with key committee staffers, and delivery of NSS petitions. The event ran from Sunday, March 11 through Thursday, March 15. Twenty nine (29) citizen advocates came together in Washington DC to complete 104 total meetings. 81 of these meetings were with key committee members, resulting in 88% coverage of the key committees.

New this year was the key partnership between ASD and the Waypaver Foundation, which generously contributed matching funds for the March Storm budget.

MARCH STORM DESCRIPTION

March Storm is the primary legislative blitz for the Alliance for Space Development (ASD) and its two founding member organizations, the Space Frontier Foundation (SFF) and the National Space Society (NSS). During the month of March, a group of unpaid volunteers meet in Washington, D.C. to advocate for policies and legislation that support the development and settlement of space. The advocates focus on the ASD agenda for the year, and meet with as many congressional offices, committee staffers, and other relevant agencies as they can in a four-day period.

About the Alliance for Space Development

ASD supports an annual campaign composed of like-minded groups focused on accelerating the development and settlement of space. It coordinates the activities of its member organizations, sponsors and stages events, and communicates with decision makers to further these goals. ASD particularly works with Congress and the Administration to fund space development and settlement and to embed these goals in the law of the land.

The Alliance for Space Development is comprised of organizations dedicated to making settlement and development a clearly defined part of why we are sending humans into space.

ASD members include:

Founding Members: National Space Society, Space Frontier Foundation

Member Organizations: Students for the Exploration and Development of Space, Students on Capitol Hill, the Lifeboat Foundation, the Mars Foundation, the Mars Society, the Moon Society, the Space Development Steering Committee, the Space Tourism Society, Tea Party in Space, the Space Development Foundation, Space Renaissance USA, and the Waypaver Foundation.

Further information about ASD, and its member organizations, can be found on the ASD website: allianceforspacedevelopment.org.

Activities

Three major activities occurred during March Storm: Meetings with Congressional Offices, meetings with key Committee staffers, and delivery of NSS petitions. The following are summaries of activities for March Storm 2018.

Meetings with Congressional Offices

The primary area of focus for March Storm is meetings with congressional offices. Teams of volunteers – typically between two and five people – hold meetings with as many offices as can be managed over the space of four days to advocate for the ASD agenda. Most of these meetings are with a congressional staffer, preferably one focused on space, science, and/or technology. In some instances, a meeting with the actual legislator can occur, such as the meeting with Senator Ted Cruz (R). Senators and Representatives on the committees impacting the NASA budget are the primary targets:

- House and Senate Committees on Appropriations
 - Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
- House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (Authorization)
 - Subcommittee on Space
- Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation (Authorization)
 - Subcommittee on Space, Science, and Competitiveness
- Senate Committee on Appropriations
 - Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Meetings with Committee Staffers

March Storm attempts to meet with the staffers specifically assigned to committees of relevance to the ASD agenda. 2018 March Stormers met with the following committee staffs:

- House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (Authorization)
 - Subcommittee on Space, Majority
 - Subcommittee on Space, Minority
- Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation (Authorization)
 - Subcommittee on Space, Science, and Competitiveness, Majority
 - Subcommittee on Space, Science, and Competitiveness, Minority

Delivery of NSS Petitions

Prior to March Storm, NSS distributes petitions to its membership that support the annual ASD campaign objectives. They are asked to sign and date the petition, and it is then mailed back to NSS Headquarters to be distributed to the representatives and senators that represent each member. More than 1,100 petitions were sorted and grouped at NSS Headquarters, and then distributed during March Storm. Petitions addressed to representatives and senators with whom there are scheduled meetings are delivered at the same time. Petitions for those who were not scheduled were delivered in brief drop-offs, some of which resulted in impromptu meetings with staffers. This activity was a great success during the 2018 March Storm, with something very close to 100% petition delivery being achieved, and a large number of business cards for space staffers being collected.

Schedule

March Storm 2018 took place from Sunday, March 11 through Thursday, March 15. The following is a breakdown of how the schedule was arranged.

Sunday: Intensive training session from 9 AM-5 PM, where the volunteers were introduced to ASD, SFF, and NSS leadership, briefed on the ASD agenda and talking points, coached on conducting meetings with legislators, and engaged in roleplays.

Monday: First meeting begins at 9 AM, with most teams starting at 10 AM. Dead time between meetings is filled by teams visiting offices where at least one team member is a constituent, particularly offices who otherwise are not the schedule. Last meetings conclude at 5 PM.

Tuesday: Participants continue meetings as on Monday. Last meeting concludes at 5 PM.

Wednesday: Meetings begin at 9 AM. Group meetings with various committee staffs.

Thursday: Remaining teams dedicated to petition delivery. Last petitions delivered at 5 PM.

Statistics

Participating Advocates: 29 (one did not participate due to medical reasons)

Petition Delivery Rate (estimated): 99%

Total Meetings (confirmed): 104

Meetings with key committee members: 81

House Science, Space and Technology Authorization Full Committee: 33 out of 37 (89%)

Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Authorization Full Committee: 26 out of 27(96%)

House Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Sub-Committee: 10 out of 11 (91%)

Senate Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Sub-Committee: 12 out of 17 (71%)

MARCH STORM IMPACT

- ULCATS (Ultra Low Cost Access to Space)
 - COTS like technology program:
 - Unlikely to be adopted, strong opposition on the committee staffs both minority and majority
 - Making government an intelligent customer
 - Also unlikely to be adopted this year, but some paths to advance cause may exist
 - Removing regulations that impede re-use and lower costs
 - Most popular on both sides of the aisle; real chance of moving this forward on a stand-alone basis; ASD could play key role in focusing attention on regulations that impact re-use.
- Gapless transition
 - Asks
 - \$150 million for LEO commercialization
 - ASD recommended report language on gapless transition
 - Outcome
 - General support for a gapless transition and agreement funding is needed
 - Quite a bit of uncertainty as to how to proceed coupled with agreement that a way must be found
 - Overall dialog is at an entirely new level; much deeper than in the past
- Cislunar development
 - Funding for lunar lander Public-Private Partnerships
 - Seemed popular and almost certain to be funded. There was a general realization that a lot of companies are interested in this, that it was timely, and that government could play a key role as a customer.
 - Funding for “Lunar Discovery” program
 - General support on the Republican side, more skepticism on the Democrat side.
 - Probably will move forward in some form

MARCH STORM WASHINGTON BLITZ TRAINING

March 11, 2018

Holiday Inn Arlington at Ballston

AGENDA

8:00 am On-Site Registration Begins

9:00 am Continental Breakfast Served

9:15 am Advocate Introductions

9:30 am Welcome by SFF/NSS Leadership

9:35 am March Storm History (see video at <http://space.nss.org/march-storm-washington-blitz-part-1/>)

9:40 am March Storm Achievements (see video at <http://space.nss.org/march-storm-washington-blitz-part-2/>)

9:50 am How the day will go

9:55 am Participant requirements, Equal Opportunity statement, zero tolerance harassment policy, non-partisanship

10:00 am Citizen Space Activism

10:20 am How to Present the Summary Slide

10:30 am Cis-Lunar

10:40 am ULCATS Act

10:50 am ISS “Gap-less” Transition

11:00 am MORNING BREAK

11:10 am Effective Briefings

11:40 am Example Briefing Scenarios

12:00 pm LUNCH

1:30 pm Mock/Practice Briefings with Discussion/Lessons Learned

4:00 pm AFTERNOON BREAK

4:15 pm “Citizens Space Agenda” Petition Distribution

4:30 pm Monday Teams Organized & Introduced

5:00 pm TRAINING SESSION COMPLETE