



## **Space Exploration Alliance 2006 Budget Week Action Plan**

### **Who We Are**

The Space Exploration Alliance is an unprecedented partnership of the nation's premier non-profit space organizations with a combined membership of more than 1.2 million people throughout the United States.

### **SEA Vision**

**We support the Vision for Space Exploration as a bold and substantial mandate for human and robotic exploration of the solar system that will help assure American technological and scientific preeminence in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**

### **Fully Support the Vision's Plan and Financial Requirements**

Space exploration is and should be a national priority for the United States. The exploration of space drives innovation; increases student interest in science and mathematics; creates jobs; improves national security, and fosters a feeling of wonder among children and adults alike. In addition, it will dramatically increase our knowledge of the universe and begin the process of opening new worlds for humanity.

**RECOMMENDATION: Congress should provide the funding for what it has charged NASA to implement in the 2005 NASA Authorization Act.**

- **This level of funding should be greater than the President's FY 2007 budget request, and should be closer to the \$17.9 billion of the authorization versus the \$16.8 billion in the President's budget.**
- **Congress should strongly consider using a guide of one percent of the federal budget for future NASA appropriations. The current level has shrunk to 0.7%. This floor was exceeded throughout the post-Apollo era until the mid-nineties.**

**RECOMMENDATION: Congress should use additional funds to enable NASA to connect current work with the future human exploration of Mars, such as through the methane engine development program.**

**RECOMMENDATION: Congress should also use additional funds to develop the Centennial Challenges program, the Terrestrial Planet Finder mission, and a dedicated probe of Europa.**

**RECOMMENDATION: Congress should protect the budget line for Commercial Orbital Transportation Services. This is currently set at approximately \$500 million over the five year budget run out.**

**RECOMMENDATION: Congress should encourage NASA to broaden and define international participation in the Vision.**