

Board of Directors

William BC Crandall, MBA
Founder, Abundant Planet

Larry Gorman, Ph.D.
Professor of Finance
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

Peter Howard, Ph.D.
Senior Scientist, Exelixis, Inc.
South San Francisco, CA

7 August 2009

Board of Advisors

Frans von der Dunk, Ph.D
Professor of Space Law
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Martin Elvis, Ph.D
Senior Astrophysicist, Harvard-
Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics

Dante Lauletta, Ph.D.
Director, Southwest Meteorite Center
University of Arizona, Tucson

Jordi Puig-Suari, Ph.D.
Professor of Aerospace Engineering
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

Hon. Andrea Seastrand
Executive Director
California Space Authority

Mark Sonter, MAppSc
Asteroid Enterprises, Pty Ltd
Queensland, Australia

General James L. Jones, USMC (Ret)
National Security Advisor
Executive Office of the President
Washington, DC 20500

“A 21st Century space policy ... and accompanying vision, must redress the unbalanced emphasis in our civil space program from a narrow focus on science and exploration toward an appreciation and enablement of development, exploitation, and **expansion of humanity’s sphere of economic activity.**”
—Lt. Col. Peter Garretson (2009)

“**Asteroids** are a combination of long-term resource, potential threat, and great scientific interest. [This] sells a heck of a lot better to the general public than going back to the moon.”
—Rusty Schweickart, Apollo Astronaut (2009)

Dear General Jones,

President Obama’s government-wide review of space policy sets the context for an unprecedented reframing of the space value proposition. In our letter to the Augustine Committee (enclosed, and: <http://abundantplanet.org/letters>), we argue that:

1. Our national civil space agency must be able to show how its efforts benefit the public;
2. The clearest way to show real benefits is the economic development of space resources; and that
3. The key to genuinely sustainable space development is establishing commercial profitability.

Our national civil space agency should be directed to help secure new sources of **critical minerals and renewable energy**, which are available in space.

By developing near-Earth resources—**asteroid minerals and solar power**—we can increase American, and global, economic and environmental security, while simultaneously “pursuing the best trajectory for the future of human space flight—one that is safe, innovative, affordable, and [*economically*] sustainable” (the goal of the Augustine Committee).

Because of your vital role in our national dialogue on resource, security, and space policy, we ask you to help change our nation's space policy to focus primarily on space resources. Please take up this critical conversation with your fellow recipients of the enclosed letter:

- President Barack Obama

- General James L. Jones, National Security Advisor
- Dr. Christina Romer, Chair, Council of Economic Advisers
- Dr. John Holdren, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy
- Peter J. Marquez, Director, Space Policy, National Security Council

- Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State
- Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior
- Gary Locke, Secretary of Commerce
- Dr. Steven Chu, Secretary of Energy

- Charles F. Bolden, Jr., NASA Administrator
- Michèle Flournoy, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy
- Joseph D. Rouge, Director, National Security Space Office, Air Force Pentagon
- Sandra Clark, Director, Office of Economic Policy Analysis, Department of State
- Suzette Kimball, Acting Director, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior

- Senator Harry Reid, Majority Leader
- Senator Jay Rockefeller, Chair, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
- Senator Bill Nelson, Chair, Subcommittee on Science and Space
- Senator Barbara Boxer, Member, Subcommittee on Science and Space

- Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House
- Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney, Chair, Joint Economic Committee
- Congressman Bart Gordon, Chair, Committee on Science and Technology
- Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, Chair, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics
- Congressman Alan Grayson, Member, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics
- Congressman Dana Rohrabacher, Member, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics
- Congressman Henry A. Waxman, Chair, Committee on Energy and Commerce
- Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
- Congressman Nick J. Rahall, II, Chair, Committee on Natural Resources
- Congressman Jim Costa, Chair, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources

- Dr. Charles F. Kennel, Chair, Space Studies Board, National Research Council
- Dr. Joan Johnson-Freese, Member, Space Studies Board, National Research Council
- Dr. Molly K. Macauley, Member, Space Studies Board, National Research Council

- Dr. Edward C. Stone, Vice-President & U.S. Representative, COSPAR (Committee on Space Research); Director Emeritus, JPL; Professor of Physics, Cal Tech
- Dr. James Bell, III, President, The Planetary Society; Professor & Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Astronomy, Cornell University

I would be happy to discuss any of this material with you. Thank you for your efforts to “expand humanity’s sphere of economic activity” beyond the home planet.

Sincerely yours,

William BC Crandall
President & Director
bc.crandall@abundantplanet.org

7 August 2009

2 of 2

AbundantPlanet.org
A Public Benefit 501(c)3
California Corporation

**2900-E Broadway
Redwood City
CA 94062**

650.361.9111