

# Federal Agenda 2018

HUNTSVILLE/MADISON COUNTY CHAMBER, ALABAMA



## TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ALABAMA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND THEIR STAFF:

We are grateful to the members of the Alabama Congressional delegation for their leadership on the issues critical to the Huntsville/Madison County region, especially those impacting our Nation's defense and space policies. With our delegation's support, our region continues to prosper as a science and technology powerhouse.

Our federal contractor community and government agencies function best with predictable and dependable funding for federal programs. The **Budget Control Act**, with its sequestration clause for controlling spending, has reduced predictability and reduced Congressional flexibility to fund the Government effectively. In addition, the inability of the Congressional and Executive Branch to authorize and appropriate the federal budget in an orderly predictable process has reduced dependability and timeliness of Federal funding. We believe that implementing a responsible and transparent method of Congressionally directed appropriations, or **earmarks**, would restore the Constitutional "power of the purse," bring more lawmakers to the negotiating table, and make federal spending more responsive to the taxpayers' needs. We request that our members vigorously support efforts to **eliminate sequestration**, return to regular order for formulating and producing a Federal Budget, allow for congressionally directed appropriations and increase, across the board, overall funding for science and technology and advanced research and development for defense and aerospace programs.

With the recent agreement by Congress on provisions raising the strict spending caps on domestic and military spending in this fiscal year and the next one by about \$300 billion, continued emphasis is encouraged to address infrastructure and the defense program requirements of importance to the community that are identified in the issues book, particularly roads, missile defense, Army Aviation, and High Energy lasers.

The Army has announced plans to establish a **Futures Modernization Command** in the near-term to accelerate development and fielding of critical new weapons systems. Care should be taken to synergize existing weapons systems development infrastructure into this new command structure by **leveraging** existing **science and technology capabilities** and resources resident at **Redstone Arsenal**.

Huntsville/Madison County has prided itself with its proactive approach to **infrastructure development**. Average local commute times are a fraction of those in Washington DC and other peer cities. Continued burgeoning economic expansion however will soon challenge our existing infrastructure's capacity and our ability to accommodate further growth. Investments now in key infrastructure including **new and improved roads, upgraded air service and airport facilities** and **workforce development** will be critical. As Congress prepares to consider legislation to address our national infrastructure needs, the Huntsville region has shovel ready, worker-ready, high priority projects.

Serious **cyber security** vulnerabilities are a prevalent and growing threat to our national security today. Cyber risks can undermine the quality and reliability of vital equipment and processes upon which this nation relies for national security dominance and daily services. The convergence of Federal, State, local governments and industry located in Huntsville provides an ideal place to develop cyber defense solutions and share the cyber forensics lessons learned from previous attacks to achieve the best cyber threat posture.

The highly skilled and educated workforce of Huntsville/Madison County is one of the most important factors in our continued growth across industry sectors, from engineering to manufacturing. With shortages across the country in key skill sets, we compete on a national level for talent. Federal support is critical to improve education and career pathways to ensure we have the future workforce to support the work of Redstone Arsenal and the regional economy.

This Agenda summarizes the most critical federal issues facing our region. Additional information regarding these issues and a number of other important federal programs and issues that have significant local and national impact is included in an accompanying Issues Book.

THANK YOU FROM THE  
HUNTSVILLE/MADISON COUNTY CHAMBER

## Support FBI Master Plan for Redstone

The FBI continues to grow its presence at Redstone through the execution of its Master Plan for Redstone Arsenal. The plan seeks to leverage synergies with existing Redstone tenants, especially those in the science, technology and logistics arenas. Several new facilities opened in 2017, while others will remain under construction throughout 2018. These new facilities not only brought additional FBI staff to Redstone, but also brought employees from its partner agencies. An interim training center to execute training that could not be accommodated at the FBI's Quantico Campus became operational in the summer of 2017, and attendance is expected to increase during 2018. Under the new FBI Headquarters strategy, Redstone has been identified as one of the sites targeted for relocating functions not required to remain in the National Capitol region.

**National Importance:** The FBI's Master Plan for Redstone focuses on providing increased capabilities and capacities needed to meet current and future national security and criminal threats. The Redstone area offers a secure place to conduct FBI operations, a lower business cost, opportunities to leverage existing science and technology capabilities and knowledge, proximity to leading universities and colleges, and a favorable quality of life for employees.

**Community Importance:** The growth of the FBI will have a positive impact on Redstone and the Huntsville-Madison County Metropolitan area. In addition to bringing new government jobs, the plan will also create opportunities for local service suppliers and vendors and create civilian jobs.

**Requested Action:** Continued funding for the FBI's Master Plan for Redstone Arsenal.

## Expanding the Tennessee Valley's Cyber Security Excellence

**National Impact:** The most critical National Strategic Defense Systems are designed/developed at Redstone Arsenal and require a rapid, integrated, agile framework, and processes to mitigate and prevent the substantial increase in known/unknown cyberattacks against critical National, State, Public infrastructure, industry, education, and financial resources. The convergence of Federal, State, local governments and industry located in Huntsville provides an ideal place to develop cyber defense solutions and share the cyber forensics lessons learned from previous attacks to achieve the best cyber threat posture.

**Community Impact:** Team Redstone, comprised of all federal agencies located on Redstone Arsenal, will continue to pioneer the way to properly defend our aviation and missile system-of-system level demonstrations, battlefield systems, and soldiers against these invasive threats and their efforts. The STEM outreach and multi-use Cyber Range will enable a more robust development of a much under-sourced cyber workforce.

**Requested Action:**

- Increase PEO Missiles & Space and PEO Aviation funding for cyber security, Cyber ElectroMagnetic Effects (CEMA), and supply chain security analyses in support of missile systems, aviation and unmanned aerial systems.
- Increase funding to enhance the FBI's Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory network, including the recently opened

interim Tennessee Valley Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory at Redstone Arsenal. Support the FBI's National Defense Cyber Alliance, a partnership with the Huntsville area cleared defense contractor community and Redstone defense and government agencies. The Alliance focuses on network attacks and intrusions.

- Provide STEM outreach funding to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center (USSRC) to further develop the U.S. Cyber Camp launch of the future National Cyber workforce.
- Add research and development funding to the Aviation and Missile Research, Development & Engineering (AMRDEC) Center for aviation and missile technology development, and a Redstone "cyber campus" to support all Team Redstone members.
- Provide research funding for The University of Alabama in Huntsville, Southeast Region Cyber Research Center (SERCRC) to establish an expanded facility for educational collaborations; resource it with state-of-the-art equipment; hire additional national experts to staff the facility for the first two years.
- Provide funding to Redstone Test Center to develop a distributed environment for systems-of-systems cybersecurity testing that can be utilized by all team Redstone organizations to perform cybersecurity testing on critical mission systems.
- Sustain and increase the funding to SMDC/ARSTRAT to support Cyber M&S environment, conduct advanced cyber analytics, ID vulnerabilities, train operators, test systems against threats that cannot be deployed on operational or R&D systems, and tune defensive tools to these threats.
- Sustain the FY19 funding; increase the FY20 AMRDEC Advanced Scientific Research Program funding.
- Sustain and increase funding for the AMRDEC-Missile and Space Intelligence Center (MSIC) offense/defense interaction in the cyber, electronic warfare and Air and Missile domain (AMD).

## U.S. Human Space Flight & Exploration Policy

The Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) continues to generate significant economic impact to the state, region and nation. Programs managed and supported by the Center have national significance and represent the most technically-diverse portfolio of any NASA Center, providing excellence in engineering and science. More than 3600 local jobs currently support the Space Launch System and International Space Station programs at MSFC, with 22,000 jobs and \$3.8B economic impact statewide. As well as development of historically-significant space transportation systems, MSFC continues its decades-long legacy in high-impact Earth and Space Science research. Continued support of MSFC, its propulsion and science programs, and sustenance of its critical skills and expertise are crucial to the Huntsville region, Alabama, and the nation.

**Requested Actions:**

- Ensure SLS funding at a level to complete development for in-service date no later than 2019 with core and upper stages in parallel, ultimately capable of delivering 130 MT to low-Earth orbit, consistent with The NASA Transition Authorization Act of 2017;
- Ensure funding of the SLS Exploration Upper Stage at levels required to support the EM-2 flight planned in 2022;

- Ensure utilization of MSFC expertise with significant roles in development of long-duration, deep-space habitation, including design and development of advanced life support systems (including oxygen generation and water recovery);
- Support continued funding of the ISS to realize full potential with utilization of MSFC ISS Payload Operations;
- Support MSFC's leadership role in design and development of next-generation propulsion systems, in-space transportation systems, and planetary descent/ascent vehicles;
- Sustain MSFC critical core technical capabilities by augmenting FY19 funding requested for the NASA Center Management and Operations activity within the Safety, Security, and Mission Services account, which is at the FY08 enacted level;
- Support and fund MSFC's leadership role in design and development of nuclear-thermal propulsion systems and stage for deep-space, long-duration exploration missions;
- Support utilization of MSFC engineering and management expertise by commercial interests in their development of liquid and solid rocket propulsion systems, engines, motors, and space vehicles, ensuring the industry has vibrant and competitive suppliers;
- Maintain and enhance MSFC's critically important roles in Earth, Space and Planetary Science research, applications, and missions such as the Lynx X-Ray Observatory and the Europa Clipper and lander;
- Support robust funding for NASA's SERVIR and Short-term Prediction Research and Transition (SPoRT) Earth Science programs, providing data for agriculture and disaster mitigation;
- Support continued funding for operation of NASA's Fermi and Chandra Observatories, as well as research and analysis utilizing these national assets;
- Support funding for the Imaging X-Ray Polarimetry Explorer, IXPE, chosen to observe black holes, neutron stars and pulsars;
- Support full funding for the Parker Solar Probe mission, and a substantive role for MSFC in the National Space Weather Action Plan;
- Support development of new propulsion systems and local launch vehicle systems to reduce national dependence on foreign assets and protect the U.S. industrial base.

## Biosciences

As the established leader of innovation in biosciences across the globe, the United States must continue to prioritize and support research and development. Numerous countries significantly invest in initiatives to gain ground in this highly competitive landscape. Critical to maintaining our national advantage is support for increased research budgets within the National Institutes of Health, Department of Energy, Department of Agriculture, Department of Defense and the National Science Foundation. With past investments in these agencies, transformational advancements have been made with drug development, diagnostics, medical devices, crop improvement, water resource management and information technology. These advancements have saved lives, improved quality of life, spurred private sector innovation and maintained our global edge in innovation.

North Alabama has a strong and growing global presence in the biosciences. This presence is driven by the HudsonAlpha Institute

for Biotechnology, outstanding companies such Eurofins, ConvergentBio, Aviagen, CFDRC and Nektar; and two-year institutions such as Calhoun Community College and four-year colleges and universities such as The University of Alabama in Huntsville, Alabama A&M University, and Oakwood University. The brilliant minds powering these entities are making significant contributions to our national success in bioscience innovation.

Huntsville's Cummings Research Park Biotech Campus is home to the HudsonAlpha Institute as well as dozens of life science companies employing hundreds of Alabamians. HudsonAlpha and the companies residing here have generated more than \$1.85B in economic impact over the past 10 years.

### **Requested Actions:**

- The Chamber strongly supports increasing scientific research funding levels for the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Energy, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Defense and the National Science Foundation. Increases in federal funding within these organizations speed medical, agricultural and technical progress, which directly impacts the economic health of North Alabama.

## Support Army Aviation Science and Technology

The Army's ability to apply Aviation power is paramount in the National Defense Strategy. The ability to design and integrate the latest technological advancements not only increases the Army's combat power, but also maintains our Nation's position of leadership in this complex scientific area.

**Community Impact:** Alabama is the epicenter of Army Aviation. The co-location of the Program Executive Office, Aviation (PEO-AVN), the Redstone Test Center (RTC), the Aviation and Missile Research, Development, and Engineering Center (AMRDEC), and the Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM) at Redstone Arsenal allows for the focused application of resources to maintain leadership in the Aviation arena. The full lifecycle of Army Aviation assets is managed at Redstone Arsenal. These organizations and the supporting industry account for thousands of jobs in northern Alabama.

### **Requested Actions:**

- Increase and support Aviation S&T funding at a level that allows the Army to keep the current fleet technologically relevant as well as invest in future capabilities that maintain the Nation's position as a leader in Aviation technology and capabilities.
- Accelerate funding for the Next Generation Tactical Unmanned Aerial System Science and Technology Program, leading to the Future Tactical Unmanned Aerial System.

## High Energy Laser Development

**National Impact:** High Energy Laser (HEL) weapon systems are being developed in Northern Alabama to counter evolving threats to U. S. Forces, to include low altitude air attacks and Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) threats. Redstone Arsenal organizations, the University of Alabama Huntsville, and Northern Alabama Industry have made significant contributions for the advancement of Army Directed Energy and HEL Technology programs. Redstone organizations that lead developmental and threat intelligence efforts in HEL technology include the Missile Defense

Agency, the Missile and Space Intelligence Center, and the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command (USASMDC/ARSTRAT), which is the Army's designated lead for High Energy Laser Science and Technology Research and Development.

A U.S. Army Center of Excellence for High Energy Laser Research, Development and Acquisition located at Redstone Arsenal will facilitate the coordination and dissemination of Army High Energy Laser operational capabilities with appropriate Warfighter Centers of Excellence, and the newly designated Army Modernization Command and Cross Functional Teams (CFTs).

**Community Impact:** Industries, Universities, and Government Agencies in Northern Alabama continue to advance HEL capabilities, and currently provide more than 200 jobs in the Northern Alabama area, with job growth expected to be above 1,000 jobs within the next five years.

**Requested Actions:** Fully support the Army's funding request for HEL development so capabilities can be fielded in the near term. Fully support authorizing the Secretary of the Army to designate Redstone Arsenal as the U.S. Army Center of Excellence for High Energy Laser Research, Development and Acquisition.

## Contracting at Redstone

Procuring agency use of limited-source government-wide acquisition contracts (GWACS), such as the General Services Administration (GSA) One Acquisition Solution for Integrated Services (OASIS), is proliferating. As these vehicles grow in popularity, firms that traditionally have served one market or one geographic region – common for many small firms – are increasingly unable to compete for new work or finding their existing work moving to a contract vehicle that is not accessible.

**National Significance:** Limited source GWAC vehicles concentrate substantial work into a limited competitive field. OASIS alone has awarded over 1,000 task orders with a combined value of \$5.93B to a field consisting of 129 small- and 76 large-business concerns. While 205 firms seems like a large number, the growing popularity of these contracts is having a significant impact on hundreds of other companies that simply can no longer compete for an ever-growing number of procurements.

Viewed as a long-term phenomenon use of limited-source GWAC vehicles will encourage additional rounds of industry consolidation at all levels of the service sector with the accompanying loss of competitive depth. The most significant impact, however, will fall on those small- and mid-sized firms that would otherwise be viable competitors for prime contracts procured as standalone acquisitions.

In the case of OASIS, GSA has planned periodic on-ramps during the ten-year life of the contracts; however, if GSA intends to limit the number of primes, opportunities for new entrants will be vanishingly small.

**Community Impact:** The impact of limited source GWAC vehicles is particularly significant for small business concerns. Alabama alone is home to more than 300 small companies that primarily serve federal government customers, yet only 15 of them hold OASIS prime contracts. Increased use of these vehicles substantially reduces prime contracting opportunities for much of the small business community, challenging the long-term vibrancy and viability of a major segment of Alabama's economic engine.

**Suggested Courses of Action:** Encourage continued use of agency- or program-specific standalone acquisitions as a first option rather than reliance on limited source GWAC vehicles, particularly for procurements with requirements suitable for small business prime contractors.

Require a competitive refresh and on-ramp opportunities on limited-source GWAC vehicles such as OASIS every three to five years. This will allow contracting offices to prune non-performing or non-participating prime contractors and simultaneously create room for new entrants. While this requires agencies to recompete more frequently, it also ensures that the prime contractor base is fully reset and provides fair opportunities for new entrants as well as existing firms.

## Support Legislation to Increase the Cap on Local Passenger Facility Charges

The PFC cap has not been raised since 2000, when Congress raised the cap to \$4.50. Since then, construction costs have risen more than 50 percent and severely eroded the purchasing power of PFCs. Past requests have implored that the cap be eliminated, or increased. Now a proposed Senate appropriations bill, S.1655 would increase the cap on the airport passenger facility charge (PFC) from \$4.50 per flight segment to \$8.50 for origin and destination passengers (O&D) only. This would restore the PFC's lost purchasing power and allow airports to set their own levels based on locally-determined needs to ensure the continued safety, security, and modernization of their facilities. This bill provides greater flexibilities for airports to make much needed capacity improvements. Airports Council International - North America stated that the increase is essential if airports are going to keep up with needed rehabilitation projects and with growth in passenger and cargo traffic. In North Alabama, at HSV specifically, raising the cap would allow completion of our Group VI airfield improvements which would make both the east and west runways Group VI compliant.

**Requested Action:** Small communities around the country urge Congress to support S.1655 which would increase the federal cap on local Passenger Facility Charges from \$4.50 to \$8.50 for O&D passengers only. At a time when there is increasing pressure to reduce federal spending, eliminating the PFC cap would provide airports with the self-help they need to finance and complete critical infrastructure projects without relying on scarce federal funds.

