

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NSS Urges NASA to Embrace CAIB Recommendations and Move Forward with Bold Vision for Space Exploration

Washington, DC - National Space Society Executive Director Brian Chase issued the following statement following today's release of the final report of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board (CAIB):

"The National Space Society urges NASA to embrace the recommendations of the CAIB and work diligently to fundamentally reform its decision-making processes and safety organizations so that we can safely return the Space Shuttle fleet to service.

"However, in order for NASA to fully implement the CAIB recommendations and continue the exploration of space, the agency will need appropriate funding to accomplish those tasks. The White House and the U.S. Congress must accept their share of responsibility for the future of our nation's space exploration efforts and provide the necessary leadership.

"Perhaps most importantly, NASA and our nation's leaders need to take this opportunity to foster development of new space transportation systems and renew a long-term commitment to human space exploration. We are encouraged that the CAIB unanimously recognizes in the report that our "future human space efforts must include human presence in Earth orbit, and eventually beyond."

"We are a nation of explorers, and a bold new vision of the exploration of space will be welcomed by the American public and our international partners. No society has ever gone wrong opening up the frontier, and we shouldn't stop now."

The National Space Society is an independent, international, educational, grassroots nonprofit organization dedicated to the creation of a spacefaring civilization. The NSS has more than 22,000 members and 50 chapters around the world. Founded in 1974 by Wernher von Braun, NSS is widely acknowledged as the preeminent citizen's voice on space.

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