

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Office of the Administrator
Washington, DC 20546-0001



February 27, 2018

General Lester L. Lyles
Chair
NASA Advisory Council
Washington, DC 20546

Dear General Lyles:

Enclosed is NASA's response to the recommendation from the NASA Advisory Council meeting held on December 7-8, 2017, at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the Council would like further background on the response. I appreciate the Council's thoughtful consideration leading to the recommendation and welcome its continued findings, recommendations, and advice concerning the U.S. civil space program.

I look forward to working closely with you and members of the Council in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. M. Lightfoot, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert M. Lightfoot, Jr.
Administrator (Acting)

Enclosure:
2017-03-01 (HEOC-01) Interactive Link between the NASA Advisory Council and
National Space Council

NASA Advisory Council Recommendation

Interactive Link between the NASA Advisory Council and the National Space Council 2017-03-01 (HEOC-01)

Recommendation:

The Council recommends that NASA work with the National Space Council staff to establish an interactive link between the NASA Advisory Council and the National Space Council.

Major Reasons for the Recommendation:

The implementation of the National Space Council provides an excellent opportunity for NASA to bring up problems and gain assistance in resolving issues which affect the broader space community, such as the dwindling supplier base for some critical space components. The NASA Advisory Council has tremendous insight into NASA, and could provide valuable input to the National Space Council staff on significant issues which have not reached the urgency level required for discussion at formal National Space Council meetings.

Consequences of No Action on the Recommendation:

NASA will lose opportunities to gain the help of the National Space Council on issues that may not yet have reached the urgency level required to be brought up and discussed by the National Space Council members.

NASA Response:

NASA concurs with this recommendation in part. The NASA Advisory Council (NAC) has a longstanding and vitally important role in providing independent advice to the NASA Administrator across the breadth and depth of NASA's entire programmatic portfolio. Its members are nationally recognized individuals with experience in executive leadership, aerospace engineering, and scientific expertise stemming from distinguished careers in government, private industry, and academia. NASA Acting Administrator Lightfoot believes that the unique perspectives of the NAC would be valuable for the National Space Council to consider, perhaps in coordination with its own new Federal advisory committee, the Users' Advisory Group (UAG). The NAC provides advice to the NASA Administrator and NASA's Associate Administrators under Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) procedures specified in the NAC's charter. NASA will work with the National Space Council in the weeks and months ahead to identify an appropriate FACA compliant mechanism for NAC perspectives to be shared with the National Space Council and will keep the NAC apprised.