

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



April 28, 2009

Mr. George K. Muellner
President
American Institute of Aeronautics
and Astronautics (AIAA)
1801 Alexander Bell Drive, Suite 500
Reston, VA 20191

MAY 04 2009


Dear Mr. Muellner:

Thank you for your letter of April 3, 2009, urging the issuance of revised guidance by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) with respect to the participation by its employees at scientific and technical conferences. As you noted, Congress provided significant clarification regarding this matter in its conference report for the 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act (P.L. 111-8). In particular, the conference report provided that scientific and technical conferences, as well as education conferences where NASA science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) content is disseminated, should not be counted as part of conferences subject to the \$5 million limitation on use of FY 2009 funds enacted with NASA's Authorization Act of 2008.

Since the signing of P.L. 111-8 on March 11, 2009, NASA has moved as expeditiously as possible in drafting, vetting, and clearing the revised policy and procedures needed to implement this clarification. The revised policy and procedures were implemented and published on April 10, 2009, via a new NASA Interim Directive 9312.2, Requirements Relating to Conference Attendance, Obligations, and Expenditures.

I appreciate your efforts and the awareness reinforced through this issue about the importance of NASA's continued role in disseminating and exchanging scientific and technical information. I look forward to continuing to work with you and associations like AIAA to further the widest possible exchange and dissemination of scientific and technical information.

Sincerely,


Christopher J. Scolese
Acting Administrator