



**Office of Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins**

State of Oklahoma  
State Capitol, Suite 211  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

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Contact: Kim Roberts

Office: 405-521-2161

E-mail: [kim.roberts@ltgov.state.ok.us](mailto:kim.roberts@ltgov.state.ok.us)

**Lieutenant Governor Askins Joins Aerospace Development Discussions**

OKLAHOMA CITY – Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins will join leaders from across the nation to discuss programs, policies and resources available to states for development of aerospace industries Thursday and Friday.

The Aerospace Revitalization Task Force Roundtable, in partnership with the US Department of Labor, Department of Education and the National Aeronautics and Space Association (NASA), will be held October 18<sup>th</sup> in Washington, D.C.

The roundtable will bring together state leaders, industry and educational representatives to focus on aerospace, space and aviation industry development. Askins will join panel discussions on possible resources, programs and cooperative policies that states may utilize.

“The aerospace and aviation industries are the number one source of employment in Oklahoma. We know we have great opportunities to expand business prospects and it will only happen if we have a skilled workforce to accommodate it,” Askins said.

Following Thursday’s roundtable, the Aerospace States Association (ASA) will meet Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup> to further discuss industry development and aerospace employment progress. The ASA, a bipartisan association that focuses on states aerospace policy and development, will include information on the STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) initiative.

Askins, recently appointed Vice-Chair of the ASA Workforce Committee by Vermont Lieutenant Governor and ASA Chairman Brian Dubie, will represent Oklahoma during the two-day event.

“Oklahoma has a wide spectrum of employment opportunities. The Aerospace States Association will be another useful resource for Oklahoma’s growing industries,” Askins said.