

## News Clippings from Save NASA Jobs Rally – 2/27/10

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<http://bbn.frn.com/fis/storydisplay.asp?site=wlkf&storyID=11395>

TALK WLKF

by **Alan McBride**

**TITUSVILLE, FLA.** -- A Saturday rally is scheduled to take place at a park in the northern part of the Brevard County community of Titusville.

Organizers said they want to get the ear of Congress and call for an extension of the shuttle program, as well as the restoration of funding for something similar to the Constellation program.

One of the people involved is Lew Jamieson, a worker with the rocket contractor United Space Alliance, and also a member of the local Machinists union.

He said that, under the current budget proposal for NASA's manned space flight program, this nation is essentially tied to a contract with Russia for use of the Soyuz as the only means of access to the International Space Station.

"Why do we sit there and continue to be held hostage by a contract that binds us to fly Soyuz, when we could be putting our own people up there with our own vehicle?" he asked.

Jamieson said that a better course would be to fund the shuttle on an "as needed" basis until a new rocket could be developed, along lines similar to the manned vehicles planned under the canceled Constellation program.

He said that he knew there was some congressional support for the idea, but it was important to garner more support. Jamieson said the best way to do that would be from the "home turf" of the spacecoast.

"It has to start here. It has to start on the space coast," he said.

He said there was still considerable support for a manned space flight program, and he hoped that this Saturday's planned rally would convince those members of Congress who were still uncertain.

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**Youtube Video of entire rally**

<http://www.youtube.com/user/jwaxman1>

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<http://www.wctv.tv/news/headlines/85770832.html>

**CBS**

## **NASA Budget Cuts Rally**

Thousand of supporters rally to protest NASA Budget Cuts.

**Posted:** 1:21 PM Feb 28, 2010

**Reporter:** Khambria Taylor

Great video coverage is on the page

In the bitter cold ...thousand rallied.

"Are you ready to fight? yeah!!"

Their signs cut to straight to the point...."clunkers three billion, NASA zero Many of these NASA employees say the presidents plan to eliminate funding for space flight operation is the wrong move.

Hudak says: "If we lose the space program here on this coast we're going to lose the whole brain trust. Florida is in trouble. The whole nation is in trouble. We need to maintain the jobs here."

Janey is a local teacher who came to show her support for what she believes is a national heritage to the men and women who make this a reality.

Hudak says "I can remember the first walk on the moon. Exploration. It's connected with being human. Where are we going to go in science without our government backing it?"

With one voice, their message was clear. Save jobs at the space coast.

NASA employees took things a step further at this rally by documenting their stories.

Through video journals to be shared for future generations.

Bell says: "what's going to happen with our children? We worked 50 and 60 years to put man on the moon and travel to outer space and back to the international space station what's Jeffery and i going to do? What's he going to do?"

Jamieson says: "I'm sure there's a great deal of disappointment across the country that the space program will come to an end as we know it at the end of the year."

Vaccaro says: " i was a kid. I lived through it the first time with my family and it was tough after Apollo and to see it happen a second time is unacceptable and inexcusable."

Vaccaro says: "what i want to see is a true vision. Let's keep our lead in space and not succeed it to anybody."

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<http://www.floridatoday.com/article/20100228/NEWS0204/2280322/Worth-fighting-for-is-the-rally-cry>

Florida Today

## **'Worth fighting for' is the rally cry**

### **KSC workers, advocates refuse to take layoffs sitting down**

Next Page

- 1
- | 2

Previous Page

**TITUSVILLE** — The coming collapse of the space industry has already cost restaurateur Laurilee Thompson one of her best waitresses.

At a jobs rally Saturday, Thompson, a co-owner of Dixie Crossroads in Titusville, joined politicians, teachers and union officials who decried the proposed 2011 NASA budget that would allow up to 9,000 jobs, many held by union workers, to evaporate from Kennedy Space Center when the shuttle stops flying after four more missions.

### [VIDEO: Workers rally to save space jobs](#)

### [SPECIAL SECTION: Shuttle Shutdown](#)

"She pulled her kids out of school in the middle of the year and moved to Pennsylvania, where her husband found a job after bailing from the space center," said Thompson, who fears a repeat of the economic devastation that followed the shutdown of the Apollo program in the mid-1970s.

"We don't have to sit back and let this happen to us again," Thompson said. "The Space Fairy is not going to come and save us. We've got to do it ourselves."

Waving placards that read "Jobs Now," about 1,500 people huddled against the cold in a park just north of Brevard Community College, where President Barack Obama campaigned in 2008. Some 2,000 to 4,000 people were expected, but the weather was blamed for keeping many away.

"My family is worth fighting for. My community is worth fighting for. And these jobs are worth fighting for," District 1 Brevard County Commissioner Robin Fisher said, echoing the rally's theme.

Pointing to the gymnasium where Obama appeared, Fisher said he wanted to "help remind the president what he said in that building, that he's going to help save jobs."

Fisher called on the workers to make their demands clear to Florida's lawmakers in Washington, D.C.

(2 of 2)

"We want you to extend the shuttle" should be the message, Fisher said. "We want you to hold up all votes on everything until Florida is taken care of. If that stops Washington, D.C., that's OK."

The end of the shuttle program could cause a total of 23,000 jobs to be lost in Brevard, already a county with a 12.1 percent unemployment rate. The economic blow will be felt deeply.

"Brevard schools are among the very best in the state as a direct result of the partnership with and the direct influence of the space program," said Janet Eastman, president of the Brevard Federation of Teachers.

Eastman warned that the loss of families from KSC will damage the quality of life countywide.

"The quality of public education will implode," Eastman said. "It won't be a gradual decline."

Many of the space workers have accepted that jobs will be lost at KSC. What they refuse to accept is the foundering U.S. space program, which will rely on commercial rockets for cargo and on the Russian space agency to ferry U.S. astronauts to the International Space Station, for which U.S. taxpayers have paid \$100 billion.

"I don't want to see our astronauts get suited up and get on Russian or Chinese spaceships," said John Kroening, 50, a nonunion production control worker with United Space Alliance. "We want to keep the space industry here. We've always been the leader."

The prospect of unemployment is secondary for Kroening.

"I could probably find another (job) in my field," he said. "It's the thing of losing manned spaceflight. It's too hard to stomach."

A political price could be paid for alienating these workers.

"We voted for the president, and this is what he's done to us, and we're pretty angry about it," machinist Tom Reid, 60, said. "I've never voted Republican, and I probably won't, but I won't vote Democrat either."

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*Contact Peterson at 242-3673 or [ppeterson@floridatoday.com](mailto:ppeterson@floridatoday.com).*

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<http://www.wftv.com/countybycounty/22694945/detail.html>

## NASA Workers Rally To Save Jobs

Posted: 9:22 pm EST February 27,2010

**TITUSVILLE, Fla.** -- Nearly 2,000 people were in Brevard County Sunday, rallying for jobs along the space coast. We've been telling you about the tens of thousands of jobs in jeopardy in the current budget proposal for NASA.

They called the potential job loss a crisis for the entire community. The group wants Congress to know they won't take it. One speaker said it's not just about jobs, but lives, homes, schools and businesses as well.

The protesters shared their thoughts on proposed job cuts to the space program that would leave at least 9,000 people jobless. There's a possibility up to 23,000 jobs will be lost when the shuttle fleet retires.

"I think it will decimate Brevard County. I think you'll see a great loss and fear we'll never get back on track." Philip Moore has worked in the space program for more than three decades.

"My fear is to be jobless and not take care of my family. Does it look that that might happen? It does. It's very serious," James Kendrick said.

A year from now the unemployment rate in Brevard could stand at 20 percent.

"I hate to even think about it. We'll be standing in a welfare line like everybody else," Betsy King is concerned with more than just losing jobs.

"I've been here for 43 years and I worry about this area," King said."

The fear is when the jobs go the ripple affect will be felt far and wide. So these workers will continue to stand together and rally again to make their voices heard. Some of the workers plan to rally in Washington, D.C. as well

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<http://www.floridatoday.com/article/20100227/NEWS0204/2270314/Space-pride-on-display-in-rally-today>

## Space pride on display in rally today

### Today's rally will demonstrate statewide impact of layoffs

BY PATRICK PETERSON • FLORIDA TODAY • February 27, 2010

#### Update: Rally underway in Titusville

More than 1,500 people turned out today for a Save Our Space Exploration [jobs](#) rally at the Chain of Lake just north of Brevard Community College in Titusville.

People showed up bundled up in coats and insulated camouflage hunting gear. On the grounds, "Jobs Now" T-shirts were being sold, and music, including Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the U.S.A." and Bachman, Turner Overdrive's "Taking Care of [Business](#)" was piped over loud speakers.

It's clear the event is about jobs. The crowd includes 40 people from the Electricians Union from Miami. The leader of that group, James Duncan, 48, said, "We're here to tell Obama we need those jobs."

#### Earlier story:

Calling the shuttle shutdown and the Constellation cancellation an "economic meltdown of epic proportions," a state union leader warned that the effects would be felt across Florida. "The

ripples from this thing are going to hit everybody," said Rich Templin, AFL-CIO state spokesman.

**[SPECIAL SECTION: Shuttle Shutdown](#)**

**[VIDEO: Job loss, opportunity as shuttle program ends](#)**

"You're looking at a dramatic impact on tax revenue, which leads to cuts in social services and public [education](#)."

The cost to Florida has been estimated at \$7 billion to \$8 billion in economic activity.

"We can't afford it," Templin said.

He said the AFL-CIO plans to bus in at least 1,000 people from 10 locations today to participate in the "[Save](#) Our Space Exploration" rally at Chain of Lakes Regional Park in Titusville.

Organizers said they expect almost 2,500 at the event sponsored by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. Its aim is to call attention to job losses at Kennedy Space Center and to support a stronger manned spaceflight program that would create or maintain jobs.

Labor union officials expect 9,000 space industry jobs to be lost at Kennedy Space Center after the shuttle shutdown. Some 23,000 total jobs could be lost in Brevard County, where unemployment already is 12.1 percent.

"A year from now, this area's going to be economically devastated," said Jerry Heyman, president of the [Security](#), Police and Fire Professionals of America Local No. 127.

Union members and the public hope a show of numbers will persuade NASA to keep the shuttle flying until 2015 or to create an alternate spaceflight program with jobs that would prevent workers from leaving the area.

"The rally is aimed at getting Washington's attention on what the impact really is going to be of completely cutting off the funding for the program and shutting it down without any regard for the labor force that's going to be released," said Dan Raymond, [business manager](#) for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2088.

The public is invited. Brevard Community [College](#) officials will tell workers about retraining opportunities at the college. And District 1 County Commissioner Robin Fisher will address rally participants.

"It's not going to be strictly a union rally," said Lew Jamieson, president of Machinist Local Lodge 2061. "We're concerned about the community, not just union jobs."

At a Senate hearing Wednesday in Washington, D.C., NASA Administrator Charles Bolden promised that a new, realistic plan to go to the moon or Mars would be developed within a few months. Nothing Bolden said, however, brought comfort to the space industry workers who will lose their jobs when the shuttle stops flying late this year or in early 2011.

And on Thursday, congressmen again fired back at President Barack Obama's NASA budget proposal during a House committee meeting to question Bolden.

"This is a giant step from greatness to mediocrity," U.S. Rep Bill Posey, R-Rockledge, said in criticizing the cancellation of the Constellation moon and Mars program. Posey favors extending shuttle flights.

Templin of the AFL-CIO said many Floridians are mourning the loss of the shuttle program and want to see manned spaceflight continue.

"In addition to the jobs, I think there is something intangible that's compelling people," he said. "It's also about basic pride in your state."

**Contact Peterson at 242-3673 or [ppeterson@floridatoday.com](mailto:ppeterson@floridatoday.com).**

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[http://www.cfnews13.com/Space/DestinationSpace/2010/2/27/space\\_workers\\_rally\\_to\\_save\\_their\\_jobs.html](http://www.cfnews13.com/Space/DestinationSpace/2010/2/27/space_workers_rally_to_save_their_jobs.html)

Video on webpage

## **Space Workers Rally To Save Their Jobs**

Sunday, February 28, 2010 6:07:27 AM

**Reported by [Margaret Kavanagh](#)**

**TITUSVILLE** -- Workers in the space industry took part in a massive rally supporting the space industry and NASA jobs.

Just as the sun came out, strong words could be heard coming from speakers at the rally.

"I came out here because I want to continue to support my family, I don't want to have to move. I don't want this area to be devastated," said Betsy King, concerned about the future.

NASA workers, business leaders and local residents were in attendance. The rally took place at 3 p.m. Saturday behind Brevard Community College's Titusville campus.

Lew Jamieson is the president of the Machinist Union at the Kennedy Space Center. He's been there for 32 years.

"It's a community issue and that is why we are here today. It's an attempt to bring the community [together]. They need to recognize they can make a difference," he said.

Organizers are concerned about the estimated 9,000 space jobs that would be affected, and about 20,000 other jobs that would also feel a ripple effect in communities across Florida.

Supporters said the recent budget proposals in Washington that will eliminate much of the manned space flight program will devastate the Space Coast, and Florida will lose billions of dollars if this plan goes through.

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<http://www.universetoday.com/2010/02/27/ksc-workers-rally-to-continue-constellation-and-extend-shuttle/>

February 27th, 2010

## **KSC Workers Rally to Continue Constellation and Extend Shuttle**

Written by [Nancy Atkinson](#)

About 2,000 people turned out for a "Save Our [Space](#) Exploration" rally in Titusville, Florida on Saturday. Organized by union leaders, the event focused on preserving jobs at Kennedy Space Center, vital to the [economy](#) on the Space Coast. "Canceling the Constellation program is a movement away from what we Floridians know that we made happen," said Brian Dempsey Secretary/Treasurer of Florida AFL/CIO. "Space Coast, space travel — that's Florida. That's what we're known for. This is not a small matter. This is a huge fight that we're going to have to buckle down to win. It's going to take serious dedication and determination."

No NASA officials spoke, but shuttle launch director Mike Leinbach was in attendance.

Speakers included union and community leaders, and each began with the words, "I'm one of the faces of the Space Coast, my family is worth fighting for, my community is worth fighting for, my job is worth fighting for."

Any mention of commercial space companies or Russian space vehicles brought boos from the crowd. At the entrance at the Brevard County [Community College](#), where the rally was held, people held signs that said "Impeach Obama."

"We need to send a message to Congress and our President that what was announced a few weeks ago was not the last word," said Glenda Linton, the National Secretary Treasurer of the Federation of Public and Private Employees. "We are here to send a message We will keep our jobs here in [the United States](#) and not give them to the likes of Russia and China. This is about lives, schools, businesses and everything that goes along with it."

"I want to remind the President what he said right in that building over there, that he was going to save our jobs," said Robin Fisher a Brevard county commissioner. He encouraged everyone to contact their legislators with the following words: "We urge you to call for endorsement for Constellation for a bold direction, and extension of the shuttle. We urge you to hold up all votes until Florida is taken care of. If that stops Washington, that's OK. We want to stop Washington. Tell your legislators to cast no votes until the President gets it, that we must set a direction that is right for the US to preserve our leadership as a world economic superpower and military leadership that can only be achieved through space exploration."

Organizers were expecting up to 5,000 people, but cold, rainy [weather](#) may have kept some at home. Many were bundled up in coats and blankets, but held signs that said "Jobs Now" or "We Believe in Space."

The Save Our Space group is organizing a video message campaign to send to members of Congress that will tell the personal stories of what will happen with the projected [job losses](#), which could reach upwards 20,000, according to some sources. "Your face is the only one that can tell your story," one speaker said.

"This is a time to build, a time to be innovative, a time to keep people working in the jobs they were trained to do," he continued. "We are here today on this raining, cloudy and misty day to remind our leaders in [Congress](#) that this community is worth fighting for and these jobs are worth holding onto. We are not here to lay blame on anyone but to value the pride of this community and the work that we do in it. This is an example that we are willing to do to whatever we can to save our community and save our jobs."

"This isn't a crisis for just NASA workers, or union members," said Executive Vice President of AFL/CIO Arleen Holt Baker. "This is a crisis of an entire community, and there are millions of brothers and sisters across America that are standing shoulder to shoulder with you, and they share your anger at the short-sighted decisions that are short changing your future. "

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**<http://blog.aflcio.org/2010/02/27/nasa-workers-launch-effort-to-save-jobs/>**

## **NASA Workers Launch Effort to Save Jobs**

by [James Parks](#), Feb 27, 2010

Workers, small business owners, elected officials and community activists today launched a national campaign to save as many as 7,000 jobs at NASA and thousands more in central Florida.

The Obama administration, in an effort to balance the federal budget, has proposed outsourcing most of the program that includes lunar landers, moon bases, and the replacement for space shuttle to other governments and private companies.

Such a move would devastate central Florida, which already has been hit hard by the foreclosure crisis. Without a new commitment to extend the space program, central Florida stands to lose 7,000 jobs at NASA and another 16,000 public- and private-sector jobs could be jeopardized. Members of several unions work in the program, including [Machinists](#) (IAM), [Transport Workers](#) (TWU), [Electrical Workers](#) (IBEW) and others.

Speaking at a rally in Titusville, Fla., not far from Kennedy Space Center, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka told a crowd of nearly 2,000:

This is no time to tear out the foundation of this community. At a time when so many Florida breadwinners are out of work or working part time, when over half a million in Florida have lost their homes, does it really make sense to pile on more misery?

Also speaking at the rally, community and business leaders said the loss of so many jobs at NASA could destroy the local economy, taking revenue away from suppliers and other businesses and shrinking the tax base for critical services such as schools. Also taking part: union leaders such as Electrical Workers ([IBEW](#)) President Ed Hill, [Machinists](#) General Vice President Bob Martinez and [Ironworkers](#) President Joseph Hunt.

Trumka said the budget cuts will also hurt businesses and the nation through the loss of the new technology, research and innovation spawned by the space program.

We don't need a jobs destruction program here in Florida or anywhere in our country. We need a national jobs creation program that keeps people working and puts people back to work.

"The rally is aimed at getting Washington's attention on what the impact really is going to be of completely cutting off the funding for the program and shutting it down without any regard for the labor force that's going to be released," Dan Raymond, business manager for IBEW Local 2088, told Florida Today newspaper.

At a Senate hearing earlier this week, senators from both sides strongly criticized the plan to end the program.

The nation's jobs crisis is bringing communities together and helping build coalitions to turn around our economy, Trumka said.

Millions of working families are fed up with handouts to Wall Street and not even a hand-up for Main Street. We've had it with politicians who think government should work for the wealthy but not for the people who do the work.

Lew Jamieson, president of IAM Local 2061, agreed, telling the publication Florida Today:

It's not going to be strictly a union rally. We're concerned about the community, not just union jobs.

The battle to save jobs in Florida is just part of a national effort to create good jobs across the country, Trumka said. We want to put America back to work, he said:

That's what we're fighting for in Florida. That's what we're fighting for in Washington. That's what we're fighting for in America. And when we fight together, we will win.

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Video Coverage by NBC couldn't find text

<http://www.wesh.com/video/22694601/index.html>

same video also found here

<http://news.yahoo.com/video/orlandowesh-16122564/space-coast-workers-rally-to-keep-nasa-jobs-18368460>

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<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2010/2/28/173825/051>

# Aerospace Workers on Florida's Space Coast Rally for Jobs

by [NellaSelim](#)

If this picture is worth a thousand words, then this [video](#) covering a rally of local workers should be worth considerably more. This is not a Tea Party rally. This is rally of aerospace workers who are facing massive layoffs in the next year as the space shuttle program is terminated and President Obama administration has proposed cancelling the Constellation program. Many of these people are hard-working blue collar workers who belong to local machinist and labor unions.

- [NellaSelim's diary](#) :: ::
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Here is another [news video](#) showing the rally. One of these workers, Michael Snyder [testified](#) (about 114:20 in video) before a Senate subcommittee the impact that President Obama's decisions regarding the space program and NASA is having on morale in the aerospace workforce.

The link to the full Senate hearing on te new NASA FY2011 was provided above. Here is the link to the House [hearing](#) held the next day. Click on the link under 'Webcast Info' to see video. As you will see, the members of Congress are not reacting positively to the new proposal to cut Constellation program. Some on both sides of the aisle act downright obnoxiously. The [NASA Authorization Act of 2005](#)(Public Law 109-155), which authorized the Vision for Space Exploration and the Constellation program, was passed by a House vote of 383-15 and a unanimous Senate vote. The [NASA Authorization Act of 2008](#) (Public Law 110-422), which reaffirmed Congress support for Constellation program and NASA, was passed by House vote of 409-15 and again a unanimous consent of the Senate. Given that record of bipartisan support, the outright hostility to President Obama's proposal to cancel Constellation program is understandable.

Note: The photo is courtesy of Central Florida Channel 13 News.

Tags: [NASA](#), [space](#), [President Obama](#) ([all tags](#)) :: [Previous Tag Versions](#)



*Sun Feb 28, 2010 at 03:10:14 PM PS*

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Doc & Grace in the Morning

K92 FM

[http://k92fm.com/blogs/doc\\_grace\\_in\\_the\\_morning/2010/02/rally-to-save-human-space-flig.html](http://k92fm.com/blogs/doc_grace_in_the_morning/2010/02/rally-to-save-human-space-flig.html)

# Rally To Save Human Space Flight, Jobs, & The Space Coast!

By

*K92FM Country Mama*

@ February 26, 2010 8:03 AM [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)



The Save Our Space Rally is about saving American Human Space Flight and the jobs of the fine people who support it.

. This is a community event intended to protect local business, our schools and the quality of life we presently enjoy. Concerned citizens from across the state and country have already committed to join us. Now it's up to us to make the rally a resounding success. The future of manned space flight and our jobs depend on our ability to convince the administration and Congress that the budget, as proposed, is a grave mistake and threatens our world leadership in technological advancement while posing a risk to our national security. The Save Our Space Rally is about saving American Human Space Flight and the jobs of the fine people who support it.

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Public News Service-FL

**March 03, 2010**

## **Thousands Protest NASA Budget Cuts At Kennedy Space Center**

TITUSVILLE, Fla. - Thousands of Floridians braved this week's cold temperatures to protest proposed Congressional budget cuts that would ground the human space flight operations at Titusville's Kennedy Space Center.

Florida *AFL-CIO* spokesman Rich Templin says the proposal would mean immediate job cuts for about 9,000 NASA workers and result in another 23,000 lost jobs in central Florida. He insists the cuts would make little difference in the federal budget, although they would bring the economic engine of this portion of Florida to a halt, and send shock waves across the state.

"The cancellation of these human space flight operations is like an atomic bomb that will be dropped on

Brevard County and central Florida. But the ripples of that explosion are going to travel across the state and impact families as far south as Miami, as far west as Pensacola."

Templin says the Kennedy Space Center has a \$2.4 billion annual economic footprint, as well as offering some of the highest-paying jobs in Florida. One of them belongs to Rob Schneider, a heavy equipment mechanic at the Kennedy Space Center for almost ten years. Now, he says, each day he goes to work knowing it could be his last.

"This is the best job I've ever had, and I would have liked to keep it and retire from it. My wife works for the schools but, if they close the Space Center down, the schools are going to have to cut back also, because people are going to move away. So, you know, we may end up losing both of our jobs."

Templin calls the proposed budget cuts be a short-term fix – with long-term implications for Florida families.

"This is not the time for the federal government to be eliminating those sectors of the economy that we know work, that we know put people to work, that we know put food on families' tables, that we know generate economic activity throughout the state."

The most recent space shuttle launch at Kennedy was April 5.

[Click here to view this story on the Public News Service RSS site and access an audio version of this and other stories: http://www.publicnewsservice.org/index.php?/content/article/12916-1](http://www.publicnewsservice.org/index.php?/content/article/12916-1)

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