

## Mars Exploration Act Congress Talking Points

Here is a list of talking points for phone calls with your representative's office to request an in-person meeting with the congressperson regarding the Draft Mars Exploration Act. Many members of congress also have an on-line form to fill out to make meeting requests. These talking points can also be used for the meeting itself:

### 1. **Introduction and Purpose:**

- Introduce yourself as a long-standing member of The Mars Society, actively involved for over x years in advocating for space exploration and scientific advancement.
- State the purpose of your call: to request an in-person meeting with the congressperson to discuss the Draft Mars Exploration Act proposed by Robert Zubrin, the founder of The Mars Society.

### 2. **Importance of the Draft Mars Exploration Act:**

- Highlight that the Draft Mars Exploration Act is a pivotal proposal aimed at advancing human space exploration, specifically targeting the exploration of Mars.
- Emphasize that the Act calls for the U.S. Congress to direct NASA to develop a comprehensive plan for human exploration of Mars, with clear, ambitious milestones to be achieved within the next decade.

### 3. **Strategic Benefits for the United States:**

- Outline the strategic benefits that the Mars exploration program would bring to the United States, including technological innovation, economic growth, and national security.
- Stress that Mars exploration would not only enhance America's leadership in space but also provide critical military and economic advantages by fostering new technologies.

### 4. **Economic and Educational Impact:**

- Discuss the potential economic impact of the Act, including job creation and growth in the entrepreneurial space sector.
- Highlight the educational benefits, such as inspiring the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators, who will be crucial for maintaining America's competitive edge in STEM fields.

### 5. **Feasibility and Readiness:**

- Mention that the United States is currently well-equipped technologically to undertake a mission to Mars, with the necessary heavy-lift launch vehicles and lander technology already in development or operational.
- Point out that a focused Mars exploration program is both feasible and cost-effective, particularly with the involvement of private space companies that can help reduce costs.

**6. Urgency and Global Leadership:**

- Argue the urgency of committing to Mars exploration now, especially as global competitors also aim for leadership in space.
- Assert that this mission could be a defining achievement for the 21st century, demonstrating the capabilities of a free and innovative society in contrast to authoritarian regimes.

**7. Local and Personal Relevance:**

- Highlight any local connections to space exploration or STEM industries within the congressperson's district that could benefit from a Mars exploration program. (For Colorado, mention the explosive growth of private space-related industries).
- Mention any personal stories or experiences you have that underscore your passion and commitment to this cause, making the issue more relatable and compelling.

**8. Request for an In-Person Meeting:**

- Clearly state that you would like to request a brief in-person meeting with the congressperson to discuss these points in detail.
- Express that as a dedicated advocate for space exploration and a constituent, you believe this conversation is vital for aligning congressional support with the long-term benefits of the Mars exploration program

**9. Punchline:**

- We therefore would ask the congressman to be a cosponsor of this bill

**10. Offer Additional Information:**

- Offer to provide additional materials or information ahead of the meeting to help the congressperson better understand the importance of the Draft Mars Exploration Act.
- Suggest that the meeting could also be an opportunity to discuss broader policy implications and potential benefits to the district and the country as a whole.

**11. Closing and Follow-Up:**

- Thank the office staff for their time and consideration.
- Ask for a convenient time for the congressperson to meet and express your willingness to accommodate their schedule.
- Confirm that you will follow up with an email to reiterate your request and provide any additional background information needed.