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Community will send Obama a message

BY RICK NEALE
FLORIDA TODAY

VIERA — Organizers hope 5,000 NASA supporters will pack the Cocoa Expo and send a message to President Barack Obama during an April 11 rally.

"This current (NASA) budget, the way it is structured, is not acceptable to this community," Brevard County Commissioner Robin Fisher said Tuesday while announcing the event.

Space Coast churches, unions and businesses will participate in the 3 p.m. rally. Lt. Gov. Jeff Kottkamp, U.S. Rep. Bill Posey, R-Rockledge, and former shuttle astronauts are expected to attend, Fisher said.

Obama will visit Florida

four days later, on April 15, when he will discuss his plans for U.S. human space-flight.

Commissioner Andy Anderson displayed a PowerPoint slide depicting a revised space-budget timeline.

"They're not showing anything for NASA, as far as exploration, until almost 2025," Anderson said. "I certainly hope that this is the line that's going to change when the president comes to Brevard."

Monday, Fisher participated in a teleconference to prepare for a two-day congressional lobbying trip with representatives from Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Ohio, Texas and Virginia. He will arrive today in

Washington, D.C.

Fisher called for a similar strategy-setting teleconference before the National Space Symposium, which takes place April 12 to 15 in Colorado Springs, Colo. This call may include commis-

Next Space Forum

A space forum will be at 2:30 p.m. April 9 at the Simpkins Fine Arts Center on the Brevard Community College Cocoa campus. U.S. Reps. Bill Posey, R-Rockledge, and Suzanne Kosmas, D-New Smyrna Beach, will participate. FLORIDA TODAY and BCC will sponsor. Matt Reed, a senior editor at FLORIDA

TODAY, will moderate. Residents can submit questions at the event, or in advance to: news@floridatoday.com (put "space" in the subject line). The forum is open to the public, but seating is limited. The event will be streamed live on floridatoday.com and taped for later showing on WBCC-TV.

sioners and representatives from United Space Alliance, Space Florida and the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast. ■

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