The Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act of 2004 was signed into law in December of that year, its main purpose being "To promote the development of the emerging human Space flight industry". It includes language to the effect that the regulatory standards governing human spaceflight must evolve as the industry matures so that regulations neither stifle technology development nor expose crew or space flight participants to avoidable risks as the public comes to expect greater safety for crew and space flight participants from the industry. As part of the process of implementing the Act the Federal Aviation Administration has recently issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in which it "proposes requirements for human space flight of crew and space flight participants as required by the Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act of 2004."

If adopted, this rulemaking would establish requirements for crew qualifications, training, and notification, as well as training and informed consent requirements for space flight participants. The rulemaking would also modify existing financial responsibility requirements to account for the FAA's new authority for space flight participants and crew, and to issue experimental permits. The requirements are designed to provide an acceptable level of safety to the general public, and to notify individuals on board of the risks associated with a launch or reentry.

The public has the opportunity to submit comments on this draft through February 27, 2006. Should you be interested in reviewing the document it can be accessed at http://www.faa.gov. You will also find details on how to submit comments should you wish to do so.