

Citizen Group Card #1

Vocabulary

Taxpayer Groups Express Opinions about Proposed Space Colony

taxpayer: (n.) person who pays taxes to provide money for government services

investing: (v.) to give money to a company or bank in the hope of earning profits

unemployment: (n.) without jobs

business interests: (n.) ideas focused upon supporting the acquisition of profits

federal deficit: (n.) money that the U.S. Government owes to banks and/or other countries

government: (n.) institution involved in ruling a group of people (The U.S. Constitution states that the United States government gets its power from "We the People")

interest: (n.) extra percentage paid to borrow money

debt: (n.) money owed

Many *taxpayer* groups oppose funding a space colony because it may lead to increased taxes. They feel that economic growth is slowed by taxation. Higher taxes will keep large companies from *investing* in new business projects, hurt small businesses, and cause more *unemployment*. These *business interests* see investment in the proposed space colony as risky, expensive, and harmful to job growth.

Many taxpayer groups oppose investment in the proposed space colony because they feel that these funds need to be spent upon reducing the *federal deficit*. They say that each year the United States spends more than it receives in taxes. As a result, the *government* borrows money from foreign countries like China and Germany. This money must be paid back with *interest* so the United States spends even more money. In order to pay these *debts*, the government will have to raise taxes and reduce spending on programs like public education, housing, and health. These taxpayer groups feel that spending money on a space colony is not a responsible choice when our country is already in *debt*.

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innovative: (adj.) new ideas, methods, tools, or products

manufacturing: (n.) production of goods; products made in a factory

revenue: (n.) income; money coming in to a business or government

consider: (v.) think about

Some taxpayer groups support investment in the proposed space colony. They say that the only way for the United States to be a world leader is to take a leading role in scientific research. They point out that this research leads to *innovative*, or new products. Making these products creates jobs in *manufacturing*, sales, and service. These jobs bring increased funds to the government because more people have money to spend, and their purchases are taxed. Consequently, businesses will make more money. Money they make will be taxed providing more *revenue* to the government. This money will help the government repay the deficit, fund more public programs, and reduce the amount of taxes each person pays.

The interests of taxpayer groups are important to *consider* in the discussion of the space colony because taxes will provide the money needed to support this program.