

# *Gaiashield Group*



Subject: Planetary Defense Strategic Think Tank and Advocacy Group

Mr. Musk,

If we are going to be honest, then there is no reason to think that we will not discover the next asteroid on its way to strike Earth tomorrow and that there is no reason to think that it will not be a 10 km Chicxulub Class extinction level asteroid. In other words, we can not know the 'which' or the 'when' or the 'how large' of this threat unless and until we see it coming. And although we could be, we are not remotely prepared to effectively defend against it... We are not even thinking about being this prepared\*.

We can do nothing about the existential reality of a 10 km asteroid becoming an Earth impact threat. However, given the political will, we can address the dire prospect that it would actually impact the Earth.

The problem is that our basic human fear of fearful things... aka cowardice, has made this a man-made threat. Those 'experts' currently responsible for the public and governmental awareness of this threat have been far from honest or courageous and have cultivated a perception of this threat as something much less than it actually is. That in the face of random chance the asteroid will be small and the warning time large and employing our extemporaneous ad hoc capabilities after we see it coming will be adequate. Because *'The odds are in our favor'*... And as a consequence of their fear of fearful things, this small community of astronomers and assorted academics (no professional risk managers or strategic thinkers or executive decision makers allowed) have become a threat greater than the next extinction level impact threat itself.

In a democracy, telling truth to power is a matter of telling the truth to the general public. Which is then reflected in the representatives they elect and the decisions those representatives make in order to serve the public (and ensure their reelection). If we expect to be able to effectively respond to this threat in any manifestation, then it becomes necessary that we must become adequately prepared and trained and vigilant. Since only fear defines necessity, the people must be afraid of asteroid impact. And they are not.

I would propose the formation of this think tank and advocacy group to determine and convey an honest and rational portrayal of this dire and fearful threat. Tell truth to power not to only catalyze an initial response from government today but to maintain a reminder of this condition as long as it exists: Forever.

You can kickstart this effort with \$10 million. A portion of which would be dedicated to a perpetual fundraising effort from other sources. Then we would find a suitable spokesman to convey our message supported by a small team of qualified engineers and scientists as well as a corps of expert risk managers, master strategists and experienced executive decision makers. Perhaps retain RAND for an initial risk and response assessment. Providing they have the integrity to work with some fearful truths...

If we are going to be honest, Planetary Defense is about nothing less than Mankind avoiding its random extinction by Asteroid or Comet impact... All there is, gone... Forever. So feel free to take this personally.

The Universe is a dangerous place. It does not suffer dilettantes or fools gladly.

At your convenience,  
R. Dale Brownfield

Gaiashield Group: <<http://Gaiashield.Com>>

2017 Strategic Assessment: <<http://Gaiashield.com/TFSW>>

\*Next Planetary Defense Conference: <<http://pdc.iaaweb.org/>> (Attend or view live or after online.)