



COALITION FOR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

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## **SCI FI Channel and Coalition for Freedom of Information to Support Petition for Federal Investigation into Kecksburg Incident**

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Greensburg, PA – Lending their voices for a federal investigation into the 1965 crash of an object in Kecksburg, PA, representatives of SCI FI Channel and the Coalition for Freedom of Information (CFI) today began a three-day visit to the Kecksburg area and announced their support for a local petition drive ([www.signpetition.com](http://www.signpetition.com)) spear-headed by long-time investigator Stan Gordon.

“By signing a petition, citizens here and elsewhere in the state can help put public pressure on their congressional delegation to request an investigation by the U.S. General Accounting Office,” said Larry Landsman, Director, Special Projects, SCI FI Channel.

Something was seen in the sky and landed in the woods near Kecksburg on December 9, 1965. Since then, the U.S. government denies that anything fell - despite testimony from citizens who saw the partially buried object in the woods and statements from firefighters, reporters, dozens of witnesses, and newspaper accounts confirming the military response to the area.

Noting that “Kecksburg is one of those historic, unexplained incidents that requires a full public accounting,” Leslie Kean, an independent journalist and research director of CFI, said that she has recently filed Freedom of Information Act requests to numerous federal agencies and military services seeking records from their involvement.

“This case is more than 37 years old,” said Kean. “It’s high time for our government - whether it’s the U.S. Air Force or NASA or any other agency - to come clean and tell the public what they know.”

SCI FI Channel, which is supporting public advocacy efforts to gain release of secret government records on unidentified aerial phenomena, believes the government may be withholding information about UFO activity. “On the one hand, government agencies state that UFO sightings are not a threat to national security, but nearly in the same breath they say that they cannot reveal information on national security grounds. They can’t have it both ways,” said Landsman.

The initiative has the support of John Podesta, President Clinton's former chief of staff. "I think it's time to open the books on questions that have remained in the dark, on the question of government investigations of UFOs," Podesta said at a news conference in Washington last October, launching the CFI Freedom of Information effort.

Both Landsman and Kean say that the Pennsylvania petition asks the right questions:

- What landed near Kecksburg, PA on December 9, 1965?
- Where did the orders come from for Army, Air Force, and NASA personnel to be dispatched to the scene?
- Why did military personnel brandish weapons at local citizens to prevent the object from being observed?
- What was the importance of the object that caused the military to rapidly respond to the Kecksburg area?

"Getting answers to these questions should be at the core of any investigation. But to get such an investigation requires the public to demand it," said Stan Gordon, who will be distributing and collecting petitions through his office in Greensburg.

For more background, see [www.freedomofinfo.org](http://www.freedomofinfo.org) . Please see [www.signpetition.com](http://www.signpetition.com) for a copy of the petition and information about the petition drive.