

## Opposes Kau spaceport

Sandra Demoruelle grew up in her high school and early adult years watching rocket launches at Cape Canaveral. Her father was an engineer there.

She knows that the state's spaceport proposed for the Kau district where she lives would be much smaller than Canaveral, but she still thinks it's a bad idea.

"We can't be a little bit spaceport any more than we can be a little bit pregnant," she said. "It's a matter now of trust."

Officials at the state Office of Space Industry can't be trusted, Demoruelle said.

She was one of the various individuals and organizations who filed suit against state space officials last week, charging that they repeatedly violated the Sunshine Law by not holding open meetings and keeping records of the meetings.

Trust would be hard to develop, she said, because officials rely on public relations to gloss over facts such as the statement in the 10-volume draft environmental study that there is a 50-50 chance the spaceport could be covered by lava in the next 50 years.

The spaceport also would be fiscal folly, she said. "It would take a tremendous amount of investment for a really risky return on the dollar. There just aren't enough launches out there to justify the building of the spaceport."

Demoruelle made waves in 1991 when she sent a spaceport consultant a bill for \$35,000 for the time she spent trying to pry loose information on the project. She backed off when the state threatened her with criminal charges.

"I'm a Baha'i so I don't want to be acting illegally. If I wasn't a Baha'i, I would have pursued it to show how silly they were being."

Threats of criminal charges and lawsuits are new territory for the widowed mother of two children who makes her living as a registered nurse caring for the terminally ill.

But Demoruelle said she became "radicalized" about 1988 when the state started "throwing money at the program."



**Name:** Sandra Demoruelle  
**Age:** 47  
**Activity:** Spaceport opponent  
**Education:** Ph.D. candidate, Northern Arizona University  
**Achievement:** Straight A average, last 8 years