



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 23-1015

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Bradfield and Snyder, Amabile, Armagost, Bacon, Bird, Bockenfeld, Boesenecker, Bottoms, Bradley, Brown, Catlin, Daugherty, DeGraaf, deGruy Kennedy, Dickson, Duran, English, Evans, Frizell, Froelich, Garcia, Hamrick, Hartsook, Holtorf, Jodeh, Joseph, Kipp, Lieder, Lindsay, Lindstedt, Luck, Lukens, Lynch, Marshall, Martinez, Mauro, McCormick, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Ortiz, Parenti, Pugliese, Ricks, Sharbini, Sirota, Soper, Story, Taggart, Titone, Valdez, Vigil, Weinberg, Weissman, Willford, Wilson, Woodrow, Young, McCluskie;
 also SENATOR(S) Exum and Gardner, Baisley, Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Cutter, Danielson, Fields, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hinrichsen, Jaquez Lewis, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Lundeen, Marchman, Moreno, Mullica, Pelton B., Pelton R., Priola, Rich, Roberts, Rodriguez, Simpson, Smallwood, Van Winkle, Will, Winter F., Zenzinger, Fenberg.

CONCERNING REAFFIRMING COLORADO TO BE THE PERMANENT LOCATION FOR THE UNITED STATES SPACE COMMAND, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO KEEP THE UNITED STATES SPACE COMMAND IN COLORADO.

WHEREAS, Our nation and the world have significantly benefitted from technological and scientific advances resulting from space exploration and aerospace activities, and Colorado is paving the way for new discoveries in the frontiers of space by having a rich history in aerospace development and being at the forefront of space travel, exploration, and aerospace research; and

WHEREAS, Colorado is the acting provisional Space Command Base, and it will remain the provisional base until 2026. Colorado is also the center for United States military space operations and strategy. According to the Colorado Space Coalition, the state's military commands are the

primary customers for space-based research, development, acquisitions, and operations, representing nearly 90 percent of space-related expenditure by the military. Moving the United States Space Command (USSPACECOM) to Huntsville, Alabama, would be incredibly disruptive to the National Defense Strategy. In addition, it would cause a major upheaval in existing infrastructure and jobs in the state, which would result in higher costs and less efficient outcomes for the United States military; and

WHEREAS, Colorado is strategically located at the center of our national and space defense. We are the home to five key strategic military commands: North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), United States Strategic Command's Joint Functional Component Command for Space (JFCC Space) Missile Warning Center, the United States Space Force, and the United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command; and five military installations, including United States Space Force bases Buckley, Peterson, and Schriever; Cheyenne Mountain Space Force Station; as well as Fort Carson Army Base; and

WHEREAS, The 460th Space Wing at Buckley Space Force Base provides operational command and control of three constellations to space-based infrared missile warning systems, has been defending America continuously since 1970, and is a critical part of global defense and national security; and

WHEREAS, Colorado leads the charge in bringing current and future global positioning system (GPS) assets to life, a service provided free to the world by United States Space Force in Colorado Springs. Lockheed Martin designs and builds GPS III, the most powerful GPS satellite to date, which United Launch Alliance launches, with Raytheon Technologies developing the command and control capabilities. Boeing, L3Harris Technologies, Braxton Technologies, and Infinity Systems Engineering also support GPS development and operations from locations in Colorado. These GPS technologies enable an integral part of our global economy and have an incalculable impact that has improved the everyday lives of billions of people around the world; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's aerospace industry is home to a broad range of companies that create products and systems for commercial, military, and civil space applications, such as spacecraft, launch vehicles, satellites, command and control software, sensors, and navigation operations. These companies include Ball Aerospace, Boeing, DigitalGlobe, L3Harris Technologies, Lockheed Martin Space Systems, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon Technologies, Sierra Nevada Corporation, Teledyne Brown Engineering, and United Launch Alliance, which make up a large portion of the aerospace sector; and

WHEREAS, Colorado has an existing educated workforce, ranked second in the nation for residents with a bachelor's degree or higher, and a pipeline of higher education institutions to sustain future growth. We are home to the United States Air Force Academy and many colleges and universities, including the University of Colorado Boulder and the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University, Metropolitan State University of Denver, University of Denver, Colorado Mesa University, and Fort Lewis College. Altogether, they provide access to world-class aerospace-related degrees and offer aerospace companies one of the country's most educated workforces; and

WHEREAS, Colorado is home to some amazing research institutions. These institutions include the prestigious Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics at the University of Colorado Boulder. It began in 1948, a decade before NASA, and is the world's only research institute to have sent instruments to all eight planets and to Pluto, combining all aspects of space exploration through science, engineering, mission operations, and scientific data analysis; and

WHEREAS, Colorado is also home to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Space Weather Prediction Center, a world-leading center of predictions for the solar and near-Earth space environment and the nation's official source of watches, warnings, and alerts of incoming solar storms, using satellite observations to protect and save lives and property; and

WHEREAS, Various organizations are key to Colorado's prominence in aerospace, such as the Colorado Space Coalition, a group of industry stakeholders working to make Colorado a center of excellence for

aerospace; the Colorado Space Business Roundtable, working to bring together aerospace stakeholders from the industry, government, and academia for roundtable discussions and business development and to encourage grassroots citizen participation in aerospace issues; the Colorado chapter of Citizens for Space Exploration, whose mission is to promote better understanding of aerospace and its importance to our economy and daily lives, as well as to promote the importance of human space exploration; Manufacturer's Edge, a statewide manufacturing assistance center that encourages the strength and competitiveness of Colorado manufacturers by providing on-site technical assistance through coaching, training, and consulting by providing collaboration-focused industry programs and by leveraging government, university, and economic development partnerships; and the Space Foundation, founded in 1983, with its world headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colorado, which holds an annual Space Symposium, bringing together civil, commercial, and national security space leaders from around the world to discuss, address, and plan for the future of space exploration; and

WHEREAS, For the aforementioned reasons, it is in the best interests of the American taxpayer to keep USSPACECOM in the state because Colorado is already fulfilling the mission of the USSPACECOM; because Colorado Springs has in place the community infrastructure capacity and community support to champion an expanding mission; because the move would cost the United States billions of dollars; and because the move would severely disrupt the Colorado aerospace industry, which has grown to support the mission; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-fourth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

That we, the members of the General Assembly:

(1) Strongly urge the Department of Defense of the Biden-Harris administration to reevaluate the merits of this irresponsible decision and rightly conclude that it is the correct decision to keep the existing USSPACECOM in Colorado, recognizing Colorado's unique blend of military installations and major commands, private aerospace companies, academic and research institutions, and government entities, and the valuable synergies this ecosystem produces;

(2) Strongly urge the Department of Defense of the Biden-Harris administration to permanently base USSPACECOM in Colorado, recognizing that Colorado provides the existing command structure, base infrastructure, and communications platforms necessary to successfully host additional national security initiatives and ensure coordination of efforts without committing additional funds;

(3) Proudly express that Colorado has deep ties with the Department of Defense and immense patriotic commitment to providing for the nation's security and bolstering our defense;

(4) Express our most sincere and deepest appreciation to our service members and civilian employees working in and supporting military and civilian aerospace companies, military installations, and civil organizations in Colorado; and

(5) Hereby declare Colorado to be the prime location for the permanent headquarters for USSPACECOM.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.; Vice President Kamala Harris; Congressman Kevin McCarthy; Senator Chuck Schumer; Senator Mitch McConnell; Senator Michael Bennet; Senator John Hickenlooper; Congresswoman Diana DeGette; Congresswoman Lauren Boebert; Congressman Jason Crow; Congressman Joe Neguse; Congressman Ken Buck; Congressman Doug Lamborn; Congresswoman Brittany Pettersen; Congresswoman Yadira Caraveo; Bill Nelson, NASA Administrator; Pam Melroy, NASA Deputy Administrator; Phil Washington, Federal Aviation Administration Administrator; Governor Jared Polis; Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera; Brig. Gen. Laura Clellan, The Adjutant General, Colorado National Guard; Wayne R. Monteith, Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation at the Federal Aviation Administration; General John W. "Jay" Raymond, U.S. Space Force Chief of Space Operations; Colonel Robert J. Schreiner, USAF, Commander Aerospace Data Facility-Colorado; Dr. Christopher Scolese, Director, National Reconnaissance Office; Ross Garelick Bell, Executive Director, Aerospace States Association; Thomas E. Zelibor, Chief Executive Officer, Space Foundation; Dr. Ronald Segal, Co-chair,

Colorado Space Coalition; Michael Gass, Co-chair, Colorado Space Coalition; and Bob Cone, Chair, Colorado Citizens for Space Exploration.

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