Second Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R20-1108.01 Bethanie Pack x4829 **SJR20-018**

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 20-018

CONCERNING DECLARING COLORADO TO BE THE MOST FITTING 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 ranked number one in the country for

aerospace employment with a strategically located aerospace center of excellence with over 30,000 Coloradans directly employed in aerospace and a payroll exceeding $3.9 billion; an aerospace cluster that supports more than 190,000 jobs; and 7.5 percent of Colorado's labor income derived from Department of Defense (DoD) employment, and 6.5 percent of the state's gross state product that is DoD-related; and

WHEREAS, Colorado is a leader for business growth, with the number one economy in the country in 2019 according to the U.S. News & World Report and ranked fourth in high-tech employment and fourth on the State Technology and Science Index, supporting Colorado's position as a top aerospace state economy and workforce; 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, Harris Corporation, Lockheed Martin Space Systems, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, Sierra Nevada Corporation, Teledyne Brown Engineering, and United Launch Alliance, which make up the aerospace sector; and

WHEREAS, Colorado is uniting global partners around the world to ensure space access for developing nations via the first planned United Nations space mission. Sierra Nevada Corporation, located in Louisville, Colorado, together with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, will use its Dream Chaser spacecraft to allow developing countries the opportunity to develop and fly microgravity payloads for an extended duration in orbit; and

WHEREAS, Colorado has an existing educated workforce, ranked second in the nation with residents with a bachelor's degree or higher, and a pipeline of higher 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 of the most prestigious research institutions, such as the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP) 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 (NOAA) Space Weather Prediction Center, a world-leading center of predictions of 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, 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 Air Force Space Command, and the United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command; and five military installations, including United States Air Force bases Buckley, Cheyenne Mountain, Peterson, and Schriever and Fort Carson Army base; and

WHEREAS, The 460th Space Wing at Buckley Air Force Base provides operational command and control of three constellations of 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 is already the center for United States military space operations and strategy. According to the Colorado Space Coalition (CSC), 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 to any other location than Colorado will be incredibly disruptive to the National Defense Strategy. In addition, it will cause a major upheaval in existing infrastructure and jobs in the state, which will result in higher costs and less efficient outcomes for the United States military; 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 Air Force Space Command in Colorado Springs. From the operation of GPS satellites by Schriever Air Force Base to GPS III, the most powerful GPS satellite to date being designed and built by Lockheed Martin and launched by United Launch Alliance with Raytheon developing the command and control capabilities, and with companies such as Boeing, Harris Corporation, Braxton Technologies, and Infinity Systems Engineering also supporting GPS development and operations from locations in Colorado, our GPS technologies enable an integral part of our global economy to have an incalculable impact that has improved the everyday lives of billions of people around the world; 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 in 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; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly:

(1) 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, strongly urge the Department of Defense to keep the existing United States Space Combatant Command in Colorado;

(2) Furthermore, we strongly urge the Department of Defense to permanently base the United States Space Command (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 restrictive 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 USSPACECOM.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to President Donald J. Trump; Vice President Michael R. Pence; House Speaker Nancy Pelosi; House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy; Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell; Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer; Senator Michael Bennet; Senator Cory Gardner; Congresswoman Diana DeGette; Congressman Joe Neguse; Congressman Scott Tipton; Congressman Ken Buck; Congressman Doug Lamborn; Congressman Jason Crow; Congressman Ed Perlmutter; Jim Bridenstine, NASA Administrator; James W. Morhard, NASA Deputy Administrator; Steve Dickson, Federal Aviation Administration Administrator; Governor Jared Polis; Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera; Major General Michael A. Loh, 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, Air Force Space Commander; Colonel Jacob Middleton, USAF, Commander Aerospace Data Facility-Colorado; Betty Sapp, Director, National Reconnaissance Office; Ross Garelick Bell, Executive Director, Aerospace States Association; Thomas E. Zelibor, Chief Executive Officer, Space Foundation; Dr. Ronald Sega, Co-chair,

Colorado Space Coalition; Michael Gass, Co-chair, Colorado Space Coalition; and Stacey DeFore, Chair, Colorado Citizens Space Exploration.