

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. R23-0828.01 Katelyn Guderian x3205

**HJR23-1015**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Bradfield and Snyder,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Exum and Gardner,**

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**House Committees**

**Senate Committees**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 23-1015**

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

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

7              WHEREAS, Colorado is the acting provisional Space Command

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.*  
*Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

1 Base, and it will remain the provisional base until 2026. Colorado is also  
2 the center for United States military space operations and strategy.  
3 According to the Colorado Space Coalition, the state's military commands  
4 are the primary customers for space-based research, development,  
5 acquisitions, and operations, representing nearly 90 percent of  
6 space-related expenditure by the military. Moving the United States Space  
7 Command (USSPACECOM) to Huntsville, Alabama, would be  
8 incredibly disruptive to the National Defense Strategy. In addition, it  
9 would cause a major upheaval in existing infrastructure and jobs in the  
10 state, which would result in higher costs and less efficient outcomes for  
11 the United States military; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34           WHEREAS, Various organizations are key to Colorado's  
35 prominence in aerospace, such as the Colorado Space Coalition, a group  
36 of industry stakeholders working to make Colorado a center of excellence  
37 for aerospace; the Colorado Space Business Roundtable, working to bring  
38 together aerospace stakeholders from the industry, government, and

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

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

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

27 That we, the members of the General Assembly:

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

35 (2) Strongly urge the Department of Defense of the Biden-Harris  
36 administration to permanently base USSPACECOM in Colorado,  
37 recognizing that Colorado provides the existing command structure, base

1 infrastructure, and communications platforms necessary to successfully  
2 host additional national security initiatives and ensure coordination of  
3 efforts without committing additional funds;

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

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

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

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