

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, D.C. 20510**

June 9, 2021

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris  
Vice President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Madam Vice President:

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Chair of the National Space Council. As you work to identify the Council's priorities, we invite you to visit Colorado to experience firsthand the dynamism of our state's private and public space industry.

Colorado is the largest space economy per capita in the country. Our state is home to over 500 space-related companies and suppliers, including nine of the nation's largest aerospace contractors. Colorado aerospace companies directly employ more than 30,000 people, while an additional 200,000 work in space-related jobs. This concentration of technical expertise from the Eastern Plains to the Western Slope drives cutting-edge innovation that benefits our entire country.

As our nation's space economy continues to grow, its future depends on dynamic education and research. Colorado is at the heart of this work. The U.S. Air Force Academy has the nation's top undergraduate aerospace engineering program. The University of Colorado Boulder receives more NASA funding than any other public university. The Colorado School of Mines' Space Resources Program is the world's first multi-disciplinary graduate program focused on space resources. Across the state, there are 21 universities and institutions that participate in the Space Grant Consortium, providing students from all backgrounds an opportunity to partake in space research. With each investment Colorado makes in space education, our state contributes to a highly-trained workforce with the specialization necessary to ensure the nation's primacy in space.

Our skilled workforce is one of the primary reasons why Colorado is at the nexus of space operations for the Intelligence Community and the Department of Defense. Our state is home to the National Space Defense Center, U.S. Northern Command, North American Aerospace Defense Command, Cheyenne Mountain Air Station, Buckley Space Force Base, and the

National Reconnaissance Office's Aerospace Data Facility-Colorado. Eight of the nine current Space Force Deltas are based in Colorado. The ongoing success of these missions and installations in assessing and mitigating vulnerabilities in space further reaffirms Colorado as the best permanent home for the U.S. Space Command. At a time when the threats in this domain are growing by the day, our nation can ill-afford the delay, expense, and attrition associated with relocating Space Command.

We look forward to working together on these and other priorities in your capacity as Chair of the National Space Council and invite you to visit Colorado to see how our state leads the country in space security, innovation, and education.

Sincerely,



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Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



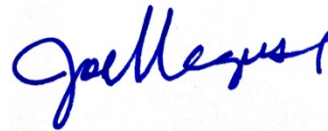
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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator



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Doug Lamborn  
United States Representative



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Joe Neguse  
United States Representative



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Diana DeGette  
United States Representative



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Ed Perlmutter  
United States Representative



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Jason Crow  
United States Representative



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Ken Buck  
United States Representative