

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 7, 2019

The Honorable Patrick Shanahan
Acting Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Acting Secretary Shanahan:

As the bipartisan Colorado delegation, we urge you to reestablish U.S. Space Command in Colorado and to use Colorado's existing space missions and assets as the foundation for a renewed and coordinated national effort to address emerging and transforming threats in space. As the epicenter of national security space, Colorado is the prime location to house national efforts to ensure continued U.S. technological superiority, global leadership, and capabilities in space. For these reasons, it is in the nation's best interests to base U.S. Space Command in Colorado.

Efforts to enhance U.S. identification, deterrence, and reaction to space threats must capitalize on areas of overlapping capacity, and capabilities. As home to Air Force Space Command, 50th Space Wing at Peterson Air Force Base (AFB), 460th Space Wing at Buckley AFB, 21st Space Wing at Schriever AFB, U.S. Northern Command, and North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), Colorado is already the center of military space. Colorado is also home to Department of Defense and Intelligence Community integration efforts at the National Space Defense Center, and to the United States Air Force Academy. Additionally, Colorado has the infrastructure and communications platforms necessary to support additional sensitive national security space responsibilities. By reestablishing Space Command in Colorado--as it was from 1985 to 2002--the Department will capitalize on Colorado's existing military and intelligence missions and infrastructure to swiftly and comprehensively ensure space superiority over actors like Russia and China.

The support in Colorado's communities for national defense and intelligence space missions is second to none. Our state ranks first in the nation in its concentration of aerospace jobs, with 27,190 aerospace jobs in the private sector and 28,140 military personnel working directly on space. With a payroll of over \$3.5 billion, Colorado also has the nation's largest aerospace economy on a per capita basis. Colorado's space enterprise also has strong partnerships with leading institutions of higher education throughout the state, such as the University of Colorado – Boulder, which has a top-ranked aerospace engineering program. Together, Colorado's depth of workforce talent, innovation in industry, institutions of higher education, national labs, and unparalleled quality of life provides a supportive and innovative ecosystem for U.S. Space Command.

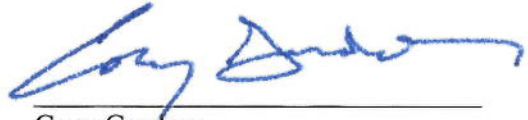
As Congress awaits proposals from the Administration, we are confident building on the existing missions and assets in Colorado will be key to any effective reorganization effort. As bipartisan

members of the delegation, we invite you to visit Colorado to see the unmatched potential our state has to offer as the nexus of national security space, industry, workforce, and innovation.

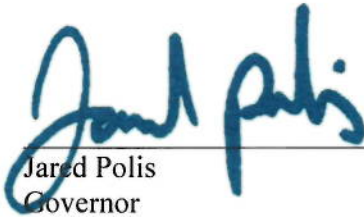
Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet
U.S. Senator



Cory Gardner
U.S. Senator



Jared Polis
Governor



Doug Lamborn
U.S. Representative



Diana DeGette
U.S. Representative



Ed Perlmutter
U.S. Representative



Scott Tipton
U.S. Representative



Ken Buck
U.S. Representative



Jason Crow
U.S. Representative



Joe Neguse
U.S. Representative