



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

June 29, 2020

The Honorable John Henderson
Assistant Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, D.C., 20330-1670

Subject: United States Space Command Basing Nomination

Dear Secretary Henderson,

California plays an essential role in our nation's security. Our commitment to this role is evident now more than ever as partnerships between defense communities, businesses, and our military department continue to grow under the state's fiscal policies; including millions of dollars in abatements and credits through programs such as the California Competes Tax Credit program, California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority, the Employment Training Panel, Research and Development credits, and more.

Aerospace, cyber, and defense technology companies find in California the personnel and national security activities essential to drive both the existing missions and future military needs. California is home to unmatched opportunity in this field: we have more startups, more engineers, more scientists, more researchers, and more Nobel Laureates than anywhere in the nation. It is this unmatched capacity – made possible by our combination of existing space missions, established companies, and innovative and entrepreneurial spirit - that would make California our country's best-suited launch point for the United States Space Command mission.

Existing space missions in California support the Pentagon's efforts to increase their investments with maximum efficiency and minimal expense. Community involvement with the development of a state-of-the-art Combined Space Operations Center at Vandenberg Air Force Base has not only increased the existing footprint of defense technology companies in the region, but has also provided the Department of Defense (DoD) entities with unrivaled access to new technologies for their mission readiness. Ties between Vandenberg and the community surrounding the base have



been solidified further by the execution of a memorandum of understanding between the 30th Space Force, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, REACH, Deloitte and the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz).

Los Angeles Air Force Base, home to the Space and Missiles Systems Command (SMC), is at the center of development and acquisition of vital space systems that keep America's Space Command operating. The base's importance to, and historic partnership with, the surrounding communities of El Segundo, Hawthorne, and Redondo Beach have, among others, contributed to creative solutions to housing challenges and demonstrated the resolve and support of these communities for their military assets. Nearby, the Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL), Aerospace Corporation and other major aerospace and defense technology companies such as Northrup Grumman and Lockheed Martin have developed strong connections with SMC, which has facilitated the efficient procurement of new technologies that sets our nation apart from others - advancing initiatives that create the world's most capable fighting force by land, sea, sky - and now - space.

Throughout the state, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and the Governor's Military Council work with communities and military installations to design effective processes that help to quickly resolve complex issues such as encroachment on military installations, testing and training areas, environmental regulatory processes, and energy development that meets our national security goals, while also meeting the State's ambitious standards for renewable energy. A model for other states, California's legislative efforts led to the development of regulatory processes in which cities and counties, developers and others notify and engage with military installations to mitigate potential encroachment issues, ensuring military operations are not impacted by growth and development throughout California.

Moreover, GO-Biz is aggressively pursuing economic development opportunities that will allow California to grow industries that support the collaboration and research necessary to design and manufacture technology that will realize the full breadth of this Nation's space operations. Recent efforts include a collaboration with our national labs to support a drive for quantum computing expansion, program funding for training and development for expansion of commercial space launch, as well as tax credits for aerospace and defense companies.

Innovation is part of California's DNA. In California, the future happens here first, and it is in this spirit that I offer my full support to any California community seeking to host the Headquarters for the United States Space Command.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom