Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 24, 2026

Dear Members of the Space Academy Selection Commission:

As members of the Texas congressional delegation, we write to express our strong support for establishing the United States Space Academy and to inform the Commission that Texas will submit a proposal to host this important new institution.

President Trump is right to recognize that maintaining American leadership in space requires more than just building the next generation of spacecraft and launch systems. It requires developing the next generation of Americans who will explore, operate, build, and defend our Nation's interests in space.

The President has made American leadership in space a national priority. During his first term, he launched Artemis and established the U.S. Space Force. He has since advanced commercial space capabilities and set a goal of returning Americans to the Moon by 2028 and establishing a sustained lunar presence. Now, the Presidential Commission on the United States Space Academy is taking the next step: developing the talent, skills, and institutions America needs to sustain its leadership in space for generations to come.

As the Commission determines how to bring that vision to life, all the stars align within the great state of Texas. If America is going to build the world's premier academy for space, Texas has all the ingredients for success: the people, infrastructure, experience, land, and resources required to support the President's vision and keep America as the leader in space.

Texas has all the right stuff.

For more than six decades, Texas has led human spaceflight. NASA's Johnson Space Center is home to America's astronaut corps, Mission Control, and human spaceflight training. Houston has trained the astronauts who pushed the boundaries of human exploration and made history.

That history matters. America has spent more than six decades building and perfecting a world-class human spaceflight ecosystem in Texas. Locating the Space Academy in Texas would allow the Nation to build on those existing investments rather than attempting to recreate these capabilities elsewhere. The Academy could inherit and benefit from that advantage from day one, giving students direct access to the people, facilities, and institutions driving America's human spaceflight program.

Most states specialize in one part of the space enterprise. In Texas, we develop, build, test, launch, and operate space systems. America's space enterprise comes together here. That convergence is particularly important to the President's vision for the Space Academy. The President's Executive Order calls for an institution that combines rigorous technical education with leadership development, experiential training, and commitment to public service.

It envisions graduates being prepared to serve across America's civil, commercial, and national security space ecosystem.

A world-class Space Academy should be more than a traditional university with "space" added to its name. In Texas, Space Academy students could walk into Mission Control and see our Nation's real-time space operations. They could learn alongside astronauts, engineers, researchers, operators, and entrepreneurs. They could engage directly with NASA, the Space Force, other federal agencies, leading higher education institutions, and the space industry.

Texas also offers unparalleled opportunities for experiential learning. Being co-located near Johnson Space Center, students could train alongside astronauts and receive hands-on instruction from engineers, flight controllers, researchers, and mission operators who make human spaceflight possible. With access to state-of-the-art facilities such as the Neutral Buoyancy Lab, the Astromaterials Curation and Research facility and world-renowned medical institutions that conduct research to protect astronaut health and enable long-duration space exploration, no other location can compare. The area surrounding Johnson Space Center in Houston also provides an exceptional pool of talent for professors, instructors, adjunct faculty, and mentors with decades of firsthand experience.

Texas can also accommodate a Space Academy campus that will continue to grow over time, allowing for significant future expansion. Just as importantly, the State has shown its commitment to Houston's moniker of "Space City" by being willing to invest very significant capital to support the country's growing space needs. This will include the Space Academy's construction, infrastructure, and evolving development. Combined with Texas's world-class universities, cutting-edge industry partners, and existing space infrastructure, these resources would allow the Space Academy to move from concept to classroom expeditiously.

Texas already has the infrastructure to make this possible. Located next to Johnson Space Center is Texas A&M University's Space Institute, a 400,000-square-foot facility that will house the world's largest indoor lunar and Martian surface simulations. Texas universities and research institutions invest more than $5 billion annually in aerospace-related research and development.

Texas also has one of the Nation's largest and most dynamic aerospace workforces, with more than 148,000 aerospace professionals across more than 1,400 companies. Major industry leaders including Lockheed Martin, Boeing, and SpaceX, alongside rapidly growing companies including Firefly, Intuitive Machines, Axiom Space, Aegis, Blue Origin, and AST, have made Texas the center of American commercial space activity. Together with the State's university and research institutions, these assets connect the civil, commercial, academic, and national security capabilities central to the President's vision for the Academy.

The State's national security ecosystem reinforces this advantage. Texas is home to 15 military installations with an economic impact of roughly $150 billion. These capabilities would allow the Space Academy to operate at the intersection of civil, commercial, and national security space, creating exactly the environment America's next generation of space leaders require.

Texas is also exceptionally well positioned to support the continued growth of the United States Space Force. Enlisted Guardians train at Joint Base Antonio-Lackland, while Texas A&M University hosts the Space Force's Captain's Leadership Course, the service's first independent professional military education program designed specifically for captains.

The convergence of national security, civil, and commercial space is increasingly important as America competes for leadership in space. China is not slowing down, and neither can we. The Space Academy should prepare Americans not only for the missions of today, but also to advance and defend United States interests in an increasingly competitive space domain. The United States has already built a world-class space ecosystem in Texas. Leveraging that ecosystem will allow the Space Academy to begin with capabilities that other locations would have to spend years developing.

The President has laid out an ambitious vision: to build an institution capable of developing the Americans who will continue to lead our Nation in space for generations to come. Texas offers the opportunity to turn that vision into reality from day one.

Students should train where astronauts train, learning from those operating today's missions, working alongside engineers, developing tomorrow's space technology, and engaging with servicemembers protecting American interests in space. Texas is the natural home for the Space Academy, with more than sixty years as the heart of America's human spaceflight programs.

We look forward to Texas submitting its proposal and to working with the Commission as it considers the future home of the United States Space Academy.

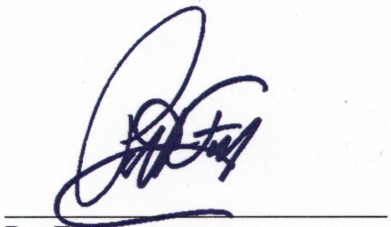
Sincerely,

Ted Cruz
Chairman, Committee on Commerce,
Science, & Transportation
United States Senate

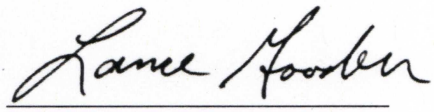
John Cornyn
United States Senator

Brian Babin
Chairman, Committee on Science,
Space, & Technology
United States House of Representives

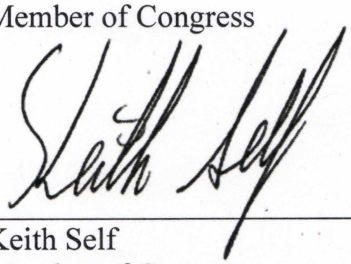
Michael Cloud
Member of Congress



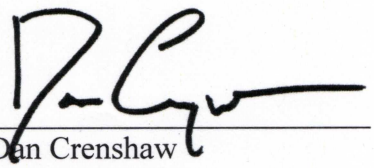
Pat Fallon
Member of Congress



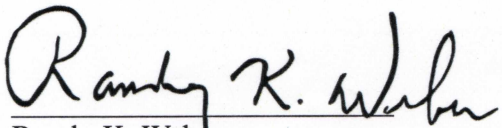
Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



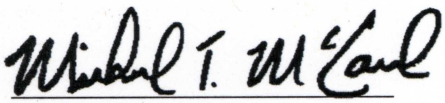
Keith Self
Member of Congress



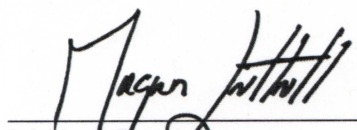
Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress



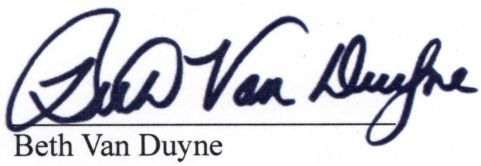
Randy K. Weber
Member of Congress



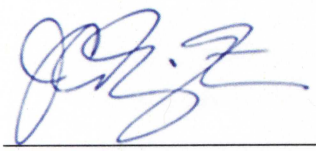
Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Morgan Luttrell
Member of Congress

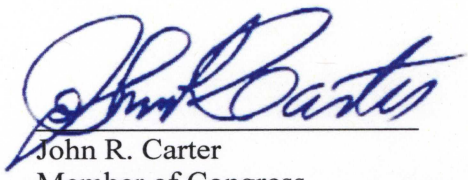


Beth Van Duyne
Member of Congress

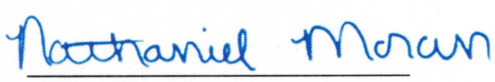


Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress

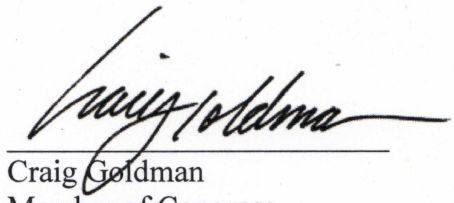
Troy E. Nehls
Member of Congress



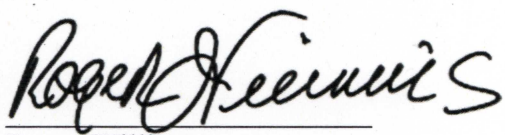
John R. Carter
Member of Congress



Nathaniel Moran
Member of Congress

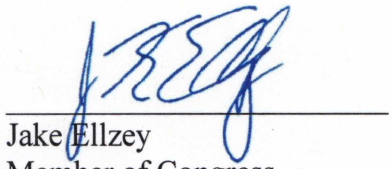


Craig Goldman
Member of Congress



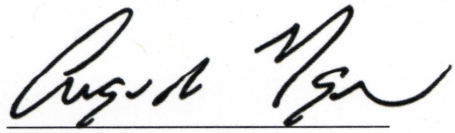
Roger Williams
Member of Congress

Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

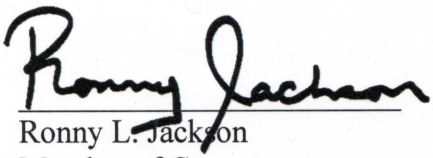


Jake Ellzey
Member of Congress

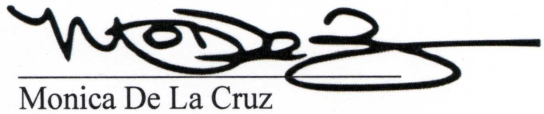
Chip Roy
Member of Congress



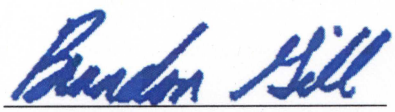
August Pfluger
Member of Congress



Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Monica De La Cruz
Member of Congress



Brandon Gill
Member of Congress