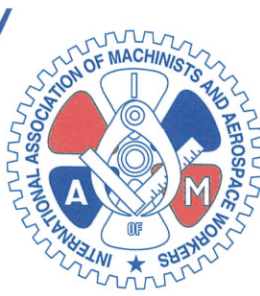


**International  
Association of  
Machinists and  
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301  
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

May 20, 2022

Dear Representative,

On behalf of International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW), the largest defense and aerospace union in North America proudly representing over 600,000 active and retired members, **I respectfully urge you to sign on to the attached bipartisan letter led by Representatives Jason Crow (D-CO) and Douglas Lamborn (R-CO). The letter, addressed to Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall, expresses strong support for the U.S. Space Force's (USSF) National Security Space Launch (NSSL) program and the essential resources required to maintain its success.**

The IAMAW represents thousands of high-skilled workers throughout the NSSL program. Our members proudly support the program at NSSL launch sites, manufacturing facilities, parts suppliers and across the domestic space industrial supply chain. These are high-quality, union jobs which support thousands of additional indirect and induced job and are vitally important to the U.S. economy and industrial base.

Consistent, robust support of this highly successful program is essential to ensuring our national security, maintaining the U.S. advantage as the world leader in space and bolstering our domestic space industrial base along with the workforce which ensures program success.

**On behalf of Machinist Union members proudly serving the NSSL program and the space industry from coast to coast, I urge you to sign on to this important, bipartisan letter.** Please sign on via this [Quill Link](#) by close of business May 27<sup>th</sup>, or contact Connor Jeffers in Congressman Crow's office at [connor.jeffers@mail.house.gov](mailto:connor.jeffers@mail.house.gov) or Bryn Woollacott in Congressman Lamborn's office at [bryn.woollacott@mail.house.gov](mailto:bryn.woollacott@mail.house.gov)

For more information, please contact IAM Legislative & Political Director Hasan Solomon at (202) 420-5902 or [hsolomon@iamaw.org](mailto:hsolomon@iamaw.org).

Thank you,

Robert Martinez, Jr.

International President

## Letter to Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall on the National Security Space Launch (NSSL)

Sending Office: Honorable Jason Crow  
Sent By: Richard.Vogt@mail.house.gov

**DEADLINE: COB May 27, 2022**

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to join our letter to Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall strongly supporting the National Security Space Launch (NSSL) program and the essential resources to maintain its success.

China and Russia present the most critical national security challenges confronting the United States, and their threats to our vital assets in space are both serious and rapidly accelerating. Assured access to and freedom of operation in space are indispensable to our nation's response to these threats.

The NSSL program has built up the national space lift capacity and has ensured U.S launch reliability during NSSL Phase 2. The program's Phase 3 would build upon the success of Phase 2 by allowing for robust competition for launch providers, enhancing our country's space superiority, and would deter our competitor's aggression in space.

Our letter applauds the Defense Department's efforts to drive down launch costs, while stabilizing the industrial base through block buy procurements, and affirms the importance of emphasis on free, fair, and open competition for all launch providers.

We urge you to join us and our other colleagues in signing this letter to Secretary Kendall as an important demonstration of congressional support for the vitally important NSSL program.

If you have any questions, please contact Connor Jeffers at [connor.jeffers@mail.house.gov](mailto:connor.jeffers@mail.house.gov) or Bryn Woollacott at [bryn.woollacott@mail.house.gov](mailto:bryn.woollacott@mail.house.gov)

Click this [Quill Link](#) to sign up.

Sincerely,

Jason Crow  
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

**Letter Text**

May XX, 2022

The Honorable Frank Kendall III

Secretary of the Air Force

1670 Air Force Pentagon

Washington, D.C. 20330-1670

Dear Secretary Kendall,

We write in strong support of the U.S. Space Force's (USSF) National Security Space Launch (NSSL) program and the essential resources required to maintain its success. Space lift is a strategic national capability, and the NSSL program has achieved tremendous accomplishments toward ensuring U.S. launch reliability. Building on the extraordinary success of NSSL Phase 2, Phase 3 should leverage investments made in recent years to ensure we can meet the challenges necessary to maintain our advantages and deter aggression in space.

Our nation is more dependent on space assets today than at any time in history. Reliable space launch is essential to staying ahead of these threats, and our nation will always require dependable and affordable access to space. We encourage the USSF continue requiring launch providers meet all critical mission requirements as Phase 3 Requests for Information (RFI) on the capabilities of commercial launch service providers are considered for payloads starting in fiscal year 2025.

The strong partnerships exhibited in NSSL Phase 2 were crucial to maintain space resilience and achieve robust mission assurance. We applaud the Department's efforts to drive down launch costs while stabilizing the industrial base through block buy launch procurements. Future USSF investments should focus on creating advantages for the United States in space to deter aggressive actions and emerging threats.

NSSL Phase 3 should be distinguished by an emphasis on free, fair, and open competition for all launch providers. Space superiority achieved through assured access to space is an enduring priority, however the high demand for space launch services in coming years mandates a renewed focus on affordability, flexibility, and adaptability. The combination of unprecedented availability of space launch providers and solid expertise that has been demonstrated should provide ample opportunities

for USSF to achieve a robust Phase 3 program, maintaining the highest standards for our nation's critical capabilities while also advancing our space industrial base.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for your continued service to our nation.

Sincerely,

cc: General John Raymond, Chief of Space Operations