

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 27, 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.

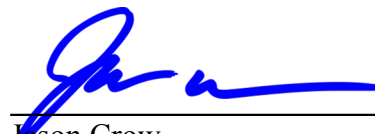
NSSL Phase 3 should be distinguished by an emphasis on free, fair, and open competition for all launch providers. Space superiority achieved through assured access to space is an enduring priority, however the high demand for space launch services in coming years mandates a renewed focus on affordability, 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,



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



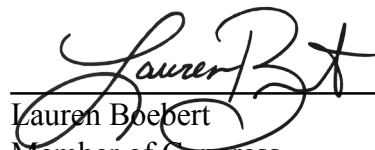
Michael R. Turner
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Diana DeGette
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Ken Buck
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Lauren Boebert
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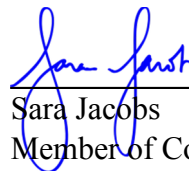
Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



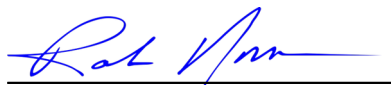
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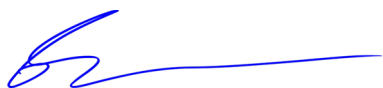
Chris Stewart
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Seth Moulton
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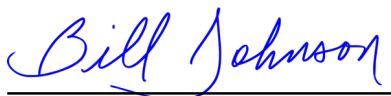
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Lisa C. McClain
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Bill Johnson
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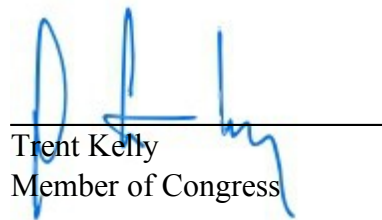
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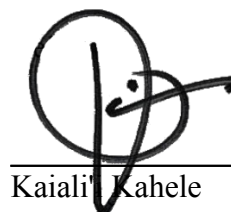
André Carson
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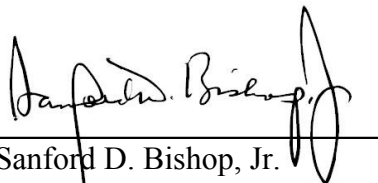
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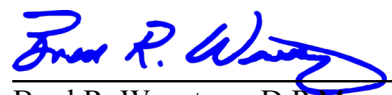
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
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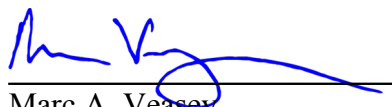
Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
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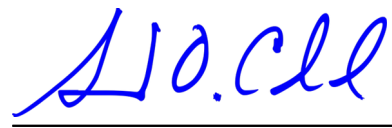
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Donald Norcross
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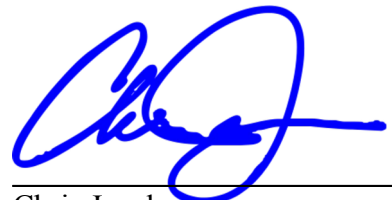
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Anthony Gonzalez
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Steve Chabot
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Alan S. Lowenthal
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cc: General John Raymond, Chief of Space Operations