



Mayor Jackie Millet, Lone Tree  
2021 Chair

Mayor Bud Starker, Wheat Ridge  
2021 Vice Chair

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February 12, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of the Metro Mayors Caucus (MMC) of the Denver metropolitan region, we write to request you suspend all action to move U.S. Space Command from its home in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and conduct a thorough review of the decision-making process regarding this critical component of our national security infrastructure.

The MMC is a regional association of mayors, representing 38 cities and towns from across the Denver metropolitan region. Collectively, MMC member jurisdictions comprise more than half of Colorado's population. The region hosts a thriving aerospace industry and a myriad of space assets, including Buckley Air Force Base, which houses the Buckley Garrison of the U.S. Space Force and the National Reconnaissance Office's Aerospace Data Facility-Colorado.

We were surprised and disappointed by the Trump Administration's last-minute decision to relocate U.S. Space Command from Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs to Huntsville, Alabama. Several factors point to the process being neither fair nor impartial: the new site selection methodology and criteria introduced in March 2020 did not align with the standard Air Force strategic basing process, nor did it provide transparency regarding state and local incentives. The timing of the final decision also raises significant questions and concerns that it was influenced by political considerations.

U.S. Space Command is currently served by a uniquely integrated array of military and intelligence space assets in Colorado. The co-location of this existing mission and communications infrastructure is critical to mission success. Moving the headquarters of U.S. Space Command from its

established infrastructure in Colorado risks disrupting operations and impacting the strength of our long-term national space defense capabilities.


The success of U.S. Space Command also depends on access to talent and the ability to retain qualified civilian personnel. Colorado is home to the largest concentration of private aerospace workers in the nation; moving U.S. Space Command to Huntsville poses very real retention risks for its large civilian workforce. We are also concerned by the enormous additional cost to the U.S. taxpayer that would be incurred by moving the headquarters from Colorado Springs to Huntsville.

Our state takes a "Team Colorado" approach to supporting and growing Colorado's unparalleled aerospace industry. MMC joins our teammates in Colorado Springs in working to ensure the infrastructure and workforce required for U.S. Space Command's mission success, and the support and opportunities necessary for military members and their families to thrive. Given the multiple questions and concerns regarding the decision to relocate U.S. Space Command to Huntsville, we strongly believe there is cause and duty to reevaluate this order and reverse the decision should it be found to be based on anything but the merits of location.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Mayor Jackie Millet, Chair  
City of Lone Tree

  
Mayor Bud Starker, Vice Chair  
City of Wheat Ridge