

1 SJR15  
2 209565-1  
3 By Senators Livingston, Waggoner, Givhan, Melson, Scofield,  
4 Butler, Orr, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley, Chambliss,  
5 Chesteen, Coleman-Madison, Dunn, Elliott, Figures, Gudger,  
6 Holley, Jones, Marsh, McClendon, Price, Reed, Roberts,  
7 Sanders-Fortier, Sessions, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smitherman,  
8 Stutts, Whatley and Williams  
9 RFD:  
10 First Read: 03-FEB-21

8 COMMENDING THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE FOR SELECTING  
9 ALABAMA AND REDSTONE ARSENAL FOR THE UNITED STATES SPACE  
10 COMMAND HEADQUARTERS AND TO COMMEND ALABAMA'S LEADERS FOR  
11 THEIR SUCCESSFUL RECRUITMENT EFFORT.

12  
13 WHEREAS, the United States considers unfettered  
14 freedom to operate in space vital to advancing the security,  
15 economic prosperity, and scientific knowledge of our nation;  
16 the United States is reliant on space for vital military  
17 systems that protect our nation and on widely used consumer  
18 systems that benefit our economy; and

19 WHEREAS, the United States Space Command strengthens  
20 our nation's ability to deter conflict and ensure unfettered  
21 access to and freedom to operate in space, and represents a  
22 crucial step to improving the nation's space warfighting  
23 structure in our ever evolving world; and

24 WHEREAS, the United States Space Command is the  
25 newest unified combatant command under the Department of  
26 Defense and includes forces from all military services; and

1                   WHEREAS, the United States Space Command will  
2 accomplish strategic objectives and enhance the capability of  
3 our military to protect our nation's dominance in space by  
4 employing assigned forces from every branch of the military to  
5 achieve preeminence in space, and delivering combat power by  
6 operating superior space capabilities such as communications,  
7 intelligence, navigation, and early missile detection warning;  
8 and

9                   WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Air  
10 Force conducted both virtual and on-site visits to assess  
11 which of six candidate locations would be best suited to host  
12 the U.S. Space Command Headquarters based on quantitative and  
13 qualitative factors related to mission, infrastructure  
14 capacity, community support, quality of life, education, and  
15 costs to the Department of Defense; and

16                   WHEREAS, on January 13, 2021, the Secretary of the  
17 Air Force, on behalf of the Office of Secretary of Defense,  
18 selected Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, as the  
19 preferred location for the U.S. Space Command Headquarters  
20 from among six installations across the country after  
21 down-selecting from 24 states; and

22                   WHEREAS, the January 13, 2021, announcement was the  
23 culmination of a complex, time-consuming process as the United  
24 States Air Force selection team considered a wide range of key  
25 indicators related to the command's mission, examining  
26 workforce availability, costs, the presence of Department of  
27 Defense assets, and much more; and

1                   WHEREAS, the United States Air Force visited all of  
2 the cities in the competition to ascertain their advantages  
3 and these communities made extensive presentations to make  
4 their case; and the Air Force looked at all the compiled data  
5 points as part of its decision-making process and came to the  
6 resolute conclusion that Huntsville and Alabama were the  
7 superior choice meeting a very high standard across more  
8 critical indicators than any other competing community; and

9                   WHEREAS, the United States Air Force explicitly  
10 commended Huntsville's Redstone Arsenal as the best choice for  
11 Space Command: "Huntsville compared favorably across more of  
12 these factors than any other community providing a large,  
13 qualified workforce, quality schools, superior infrastructure  
14 capacity, and low initial and recurring costs. Additionally,  
15 Redstone Arsenal offered a facility to support the  
16 headquarters, at no cost, while the permanent facility is  
17 being constructed"; and

18                   WHEREAS, Redstone Arsenal, as the cradle of the  
19 nation's rocket program, is a thriving, 38,000-acre federal  
20 campus, home to more than 70 military commands and government  
21 agencies and over 70,000 employees; and

22                   WHEREAS, Redstone Arsenal houses many organizations  
23 such as the Army Aviation and Missile Command, U.S. Missile  
24 Defense Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency/Missile and Space  
25 Intelligence Center, Army Space and Missile Defense Command,  
26 the Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation and  
27 Missile Center, and the Marshall Space Flight Center, NASA's

largest installation and the beating heart of its propulsion research; the Marshall Space Flight Center's scientists and engineers developed the Saturn V rocket that took man to the Moon, and they continue to make major contributions to the Artemis program, which will return humanity to the Moon and beyond; and

WHEREAS, every major aerospace company has a significant presence in Huntsville and the surrounding area: Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Blue Origin, Aerojet Rocketdyne, Northrop Grumman and Space X, among others and The United Launch Alliance builds its powerful rockets in nearby Decatur; and

WHEREAS, Huntsville's concentration of aerospace engineers is among the highest in the nation, underscoring and showcasing the excellence of the talented and ready workforce; moreover, Huntsville and the surrounding area is one of the most highly ranked in the nation for STEM careers, with a high ratio of STEM careers in the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the decision to house the U.S. Space Command Headquarters at Redstone Arsenal is yet another chapter in Huntsville and Alabama's unparalleled historic, six-decade long, unique leadership in space that includes the development of the rocket that went to the Moon, the nation's only defense system against intercontinental ballistic missiles and Army programs in missiles and space that keep our warfighters and allies aware and safe; and

1                   WHEREAS, in addition to a large presence of critical  
2 government agencies focused on civil space, research,  
3 development, life cycle management, and acquisition of space  
4 and missile systems, Huntsville and the State of Alabama are  
5 home to hundreds of aerospace and defense companies ranging  
6 from major prime contractors to small, locally owned  
7 businesses that employ thousands of highly skilled workers,  
8 the development of advanced technology and Artificial  
9 Intelligence, as well as research-intensive universities; and

10                  WHEREAS, it took a broad, inclusive team effort to  
11 recruit the U.S. Space Command Headquarters; this effort was  
12 led by Senator Richard Shelby and included the Redstone  
13 Regional Alliance, Governor Kay Ivey, Alabama Commerce  
14 Secretary Greg Canfield, Mayor Tommy Battle, Lieutenant  
15 Governor Will Ainsworth, the Alabama Space Authority, and  
16 numerous volunteers and leaders in government, business,  
17 education, and economic and workforce development  
18 professionals; now therefore,

19                  BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
20 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we recognize, affirm, and  
21 honor the United States Space Command and its new headquarters  
22 at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama, and express our deepest  
23 appreciation to the United States Air Force for its excellent  
24 selection, and we express gratitude to the Alabama leaders who  
25 worked tirelessly towards this successful decision.

26                  BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, That we strongly dispute any  
27 assertion that Alabama is anything less than the optimal

1 location for the United States Space Command Headquarters, and  
2 similarly rebuke any allegations that Alabama was chosen for  
3 any reason other than its unique suitability to host this  
4 critical mission, and we applaud the United States Air Force  
5 selection of Redstone Arsenal above the other potential, but  
6 unsuitable, sites.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this  
8 resolution be transmitted to the President of the United  
9 States, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Air  
10 Force, and the members of the Alabama Congressional  
11 delegation.