

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the United States Space Command is the newest unified combatant command under the Department of 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

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

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

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

19 WHEREAS, the decision to house the U.S. Space
20 Command Headquarters at Redstone Arsenal is yet another
21 chapter in Huntsville and Alabama's unparalleled historic,
22 six-decade long, unique leadership in space that includes the
23 development of the rocket that went to the Moon, the nation's
24 only defense system against intercontinental ballistic
25 missiles and Army programs in missiles and space that keep our
26 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.