

1 SJR15
2 209565-2
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

1 SJR15

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4 ENROLLED, SJR15,

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

9

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, the United States Space Command will
25 accomplish strategic objectives and enhance the capability of

1 our military to protect our nation's dominance in space by
2 employing assigned forces from every branch of the military to
3 achieve preeminence in space, and delivering combat power by
4 operating superior space capabilities such as communications,
5 intelligence, navigation, and early missile detection warning;
6 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, the decision to house the U.S. Space
22 Command Headquarters at Redstone Arsenal is yet another
23 chapter in Huntsville and Alabama's unparalleled historic,
24 six-decade long, unique leadership in space that includes the
25 development of the rocket that went to the Moon, the nation's

1 only defense system against intercontinental ballistic
2 missiles and Army programs in missiles and space that keep our
3 warfighters and allies aware and safe; and

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

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

22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
23 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we recognize, affirm, and
24 honor the United States Space Command and its new headquarters
25 at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama, and express our deepest

1 appreciation to the United States Air Force for its excellent
2 selection, and we express gratitude to the Alabama leaders who
3 worked tirelessly towards this successful decision.

4 BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, That we strongly dispute any
5 assertion that Alabama is anything less than the optimal
6 location for the United States Space Command Headquarters, and
7 similarly rebuke any allegations that Alabama was chosen for
8 any reason other than its unique suitability to host this
9 critical mission, and we applaud the United States Air Force
10 selection of Redstone Arsenal above the other potential, but
11 unsuitable, sites.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
13 resolution be transmitted to the President of the United
14 States, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Air
15 Force, and the members of the Alabama Congressional
16 delegation.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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Senate 03-FEB-21

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I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

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Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

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House of Representatives

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Adopted: 11-FEB-21

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By: Senator Livingston