

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 8, 2019

The Honorable Patrick Shanahan  
Acting Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

The Honorable Heather Wilson  
Secretary of the Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330

Dear Secretary Shanahan and Secretary Wilson,

The reliance and vulnerability of the United States on space assets for its national security, economic competitiveness and the day to day functioning of its society demands an appropriate response for the Department of Defense (DOD). In the face of immediate and growing threats the establishment of a U.S. Space Command (USSPACECOM) is an imperative.

We are writing to request a fair and transparent process for locating the USSPACECOM headquarters in compliance with the Air Force's Strategic Basing Process. Additionally, we request information on how the criteria for candidate locations is determined for USSPACECOM. The criteria is essential to the final decision and we fear lack of transparency during this important step could subject the process and headquarters decision to scrutiny.

Recent press reports have begun to raise concerns that events are unfolding in a manner unworthy of a decision this critical to the nation's security. Too many people in the Pentagon have worked too long and too hard on this critical issue to have the integrity of a process this important be called into question.

The State of Florida and its representatives believe the best interests of the nation will be achieved with a transparent, full and open process to determine the location best suited for our Nation's security and economic interests. The DOD has a history of well-respected processes to achieve optimal site determinations, for example, recent Special Operations Command and Futures Command headquarters decisions.

Florida, with its historic and existing national security and commercial space infrastructure and launch capabilities, is uniquely suited, and a logical candidate to locate USSPACECOM headquarters and other critical elements of the Space Force mission. Moreover, Florida's innovation culture and home to the new commercial space industry, provides the perfect place for the new command to grow and develop its personnel and unique space-warfighting culture.

Florida has a long history of outstanding support for America's military. Florida offers an unrivaled quality of life for personnel and their families. Our State hosts world class educational and advanced technical universities along with an unrivaled modeling and simulation center necessary to outfit the 21<sup>st</sup> century space cadre.

Additionally, Space Florida, a unique for-profit, public operating entity, with a unique but tested capability to support federal programs, also stands ready to support as a dynamic 21<sup>st</sup> century model of commercial-governmental cooperation.

In order to meet the space capability needs for both joint force enhancement and domain superiority, USSPACECOM must share close proximity to the space launch industry to better integrate both the launch and operational aspect of space assets. Only Florida provides this opportunity along with the quality of life necessary to meet retention goals.

U.S. Space Command will be essential to American national security, our national interests and ensuring the peaceful use of space by all in the future. We hope these important factors are considered through a fair and transparent process with sufficient communication with Congress while criteria is established and recommendations are made on locating USSPACECOM headquarters.

We look forward to continuing the discussion on this important national security decision.

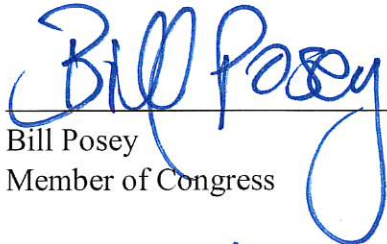
Sincerely,



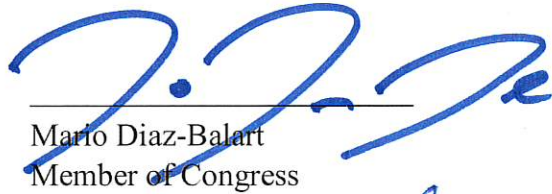
Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress



Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senator



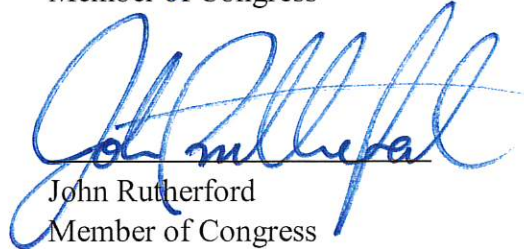
Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress



John Rutherford  
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress