

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 28, 2020

The Honorable John Henderson
Assistant Secretary
United States Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20330

Dear Assistant Secretary John Henderson:

We write in support of the eight letters of nomination for the future home of the United States Space Command (SPACECOM) submitted by Governor Ron DeSantis on behalf of the State of Florida. Florida has a long and proud history of supporting both military installations as well as space operations. Our commitment to the military and its missions makes the great state of Florida uniquely positioned to host this much needed combatant command.

Florida is currently home to three combatant commands, SOCOM, CENTCOM, and SOUTHCOM, as well as 20 active duty installations spread throughout the state. Florida's reputation as the most military friendly state in the nation is unrivaled. The quality of life experienced by our men and women in uniform is why more than 1.5 million veterans choose to live in Florida, and why Florida installations have some of the highest retention rates in the military. Florida's economy, health care, and education system as well as the state's beautiful beaches and the Everglades provide military families with unparalleled opportunities.

Florida has long been a leader in America's efforts in space. In fact, every American manned mission to space, including SpaceX's recent successful Crew Dragon launch, began its voyage on Florida soil. Apollo, the Space Shuttle, and the Mars Rovers all launched from Florida. Florida has been a driving force in the renaissance of the space industry over the last decade. Leaders on both sides of the aisle recognize the strategic importance of American leadership in space. Florida has worked hard to cultivate deep relationships between federal and state agencies, the military, private industry, and our elite institutions of higher education in order to expand the horizon of this great national endeavor.

Any of the nominees submitted by Governor DeSantis, including the City of Jacksonville, the City of Tampa and Hillsborough County, Brevard County, Seminole County, Pinellas County, the City of Pensacola, Orange County, and Miami-Dade County, would make an excellent choice for the home of SPACECOM.

We appreciate your consideration, and look forward to discussing more about what Florida, the gateway to the stars, has to offer.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



Rick Scott
U.S. Senator



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Ross Spano
Member of Congress



Brian Mast
Member of Congress



Francis Rooney
Member of Congress



Ted S. Yoho D.V.M
Member of Congress



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



Gus M Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Theodore Deutch
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist
Member of Congress



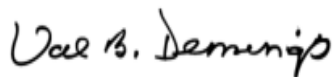
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



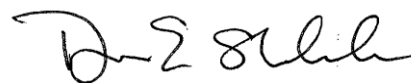
Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Val Demings
Member of Congress



Donna Shalala
Member of Congress



Al Lawson
Member of Congress



Frederica Wilson
Member of congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress