

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 16, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

From its founding in 1958, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has a storied history of exploring new frontiers, making transformational discoveries, and reaching far into the great beyond. However, as NASA's leadership has languished in our nation's capital, the core missions of this critical agency are more divided than ever before. This seismic disconnect between NASA's headquarters and its missions has opened the door to bureaucratic micromanagement and an erosion of centers' interdependence. For NASA to return to its core mission of excellence in exploration, its headquarters should be located at a place where NASA's most critical missions are and where transformational leadership from the ground up can be provided. In 2028 the lease for NASA's current headquarters building in Washington, D.C. expires. We write to urge you to use this opportunity to reinvigorate our national space agency and move NASA's headquarters from Washington, D.C. to the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center (JSC) in Houston, Texas.

Perhaps no city is more closely linked to America's space program than "Space City." Some of the first words spoken on the surface of the moon called out to Houston which is home to numerous aerospace businesses. JSC in particular is the largest home of the NASA workforce, with more than 12,000 employees¹ across its 1,620-acre facility² and supporting more than 52,000 public and private jobs.³ As the pinnacle of human spaceflight development, Houston is home to Mission Control, the NASA astronaut corps, the Lunar Sample Laboratory Facility, commercial space agreements, and extensive research and development partnerships. JSC plays a role in nearly everything that makes America a leader in space exploration.

Houston is particularly well suited for NASA's headquarters due in part to the unique strengths of the city and the state. Texas is the eighth largest economy in the world, with low government regulation and a strong business environment. Houston boasts a cost of living that is less than half that of the Washington, D.C. area⁴; three "R1: Doctoral Universities"⁵ producing the high caliber professionals necessary for human spaceflight; and two major commercial service airports for easy

¹ [Johnson Space Center, NASA](#)

² [About Johnson Space Center: The Hub of Human Spaceflight, NASA](#).

³ [NASA: Texas Economic Snapshot, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts](#).

⁴ [Cost of Living Calculator, Forbes](#)

⁵ [Priest, Jessica. Texas now has more top-tier research universities than any other state, report finds. Texas Tribune. February 13, 2025.](#)

connectivity around the country. In contrast, NASA's current headquarters in Washington, D.C. is disconnected from the NASA centers across the country and thus much of the day-to-day work. Consolidating greater and greater levels of work and authority in Washington, D.C. has been a decades-long trend, resulting in decision making funneled up to bureaucrats at headquarters rather than empowering scientists and astronauts across the centers.⁶ This strategy has separated decision makers from the actual workforce and stands antithetical to NASA's core function.

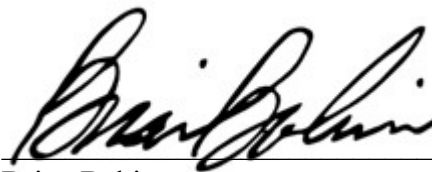
Relatedly, for the United States to reach the surface of Mars, NASA must rely on a robust commercial space sector. Towards that end, no state offers greater economic and geographic benefits than Texas. The Lone Star State is home to more than 2,000 aerospace, aviation, and defense-related companies, with 18 of the 20 largest aerospace companies based in Texas.⁷ Notably, SpaceX relocated their entire company to Texas, establishing the town of Starbase, Texas, to develop, test, and launch SpaceX vehicles. Similarly, Blue Origin develops engines and rockets in West Texas, leading a new generation of spaceflight, and conducts its commercial sub-orbital flights there. Firefly Aerospace, in Cedar Park, recently sent photos of Earth from its Blue Ghost lunar lander on its voyage to explore the surface of the moon. Axiom Space, based in Houston, is building the next generation spacesuit for NASA and a commercial space station to succeed the International Space Station. In addition, the State of Texas recently stood up the Texas Space Commission to promote innovation in space operations and commercial aerospace and to attract commercial space ventures to the state.⁸ These are just a few of the ways Texas aerospace companies, projects, and institutions are transforming our nation's leadership in the space economy.

A central location among NASA's centers and the geographical center of the United States, Houston offers the ideal location for NASA to return to its core mission of space exploration and to do so at a substantially lower operating cost than in Washington, D.C. Therefore, we strongly encourage you to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the great servants of NASA — who are focused on recommitting America's space agency to its roots and exploring the final frontier — by relocating NASA's headquarters from Washington, D.C. to the Johnson Space Center.

Sincerely,



Ted Cruz
Chairman, Committee on Commerce,
Science, & Transportation
United States Senate

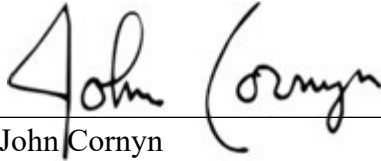


Brian Babin
Chairman, Committee on Science,
Space, & Technology
United States House of Representatives

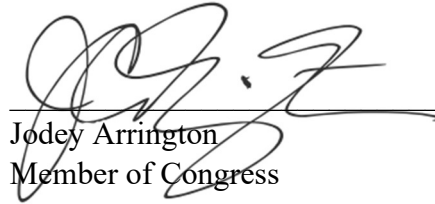
⁶ [Agency Leadership Talks NASA 2040, Artemis, Budget at Marshall Town Hall. NASA. October 4, 2023.](#)

⁷ [Texas Aerospace, Aviation, and Defense Industry. Texas Governor Office.](#)

⁸ [Texas Space Commission. Texas Governor Office.](#)



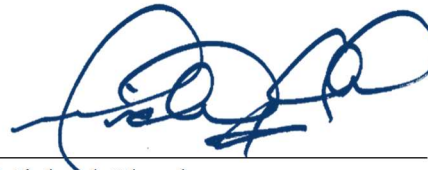
John Cornyn
United States Senator



Jodey Arrington
Member of Congress



John Carter
Member of Congress



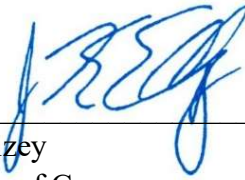
Michael Cloud
Member of Congress



Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress



Monica De La Cruz
Member of Congress



Jake Ellzey
Member of Congress



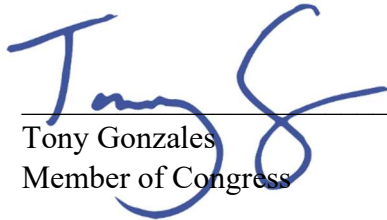
Pat Fallon
Member of Congress




Brandon Gill
Member of Congress



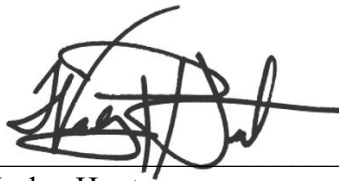
Craig Goldman
Member of Congress




Tony Gonzales
Member of Congress



Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



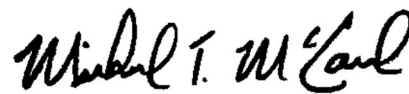
Wesley Hunt
Member of Congress



Ronny Jackson
Member of Congress



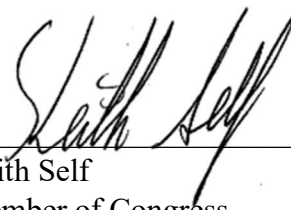
Morgan Luttrell
Member of Congress



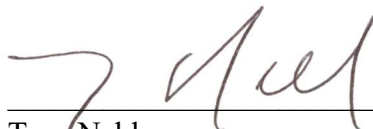
Michael McCaul
Member of Congress



Nathaniel Moran
Member of Congress




Keith Self
Member of Congress



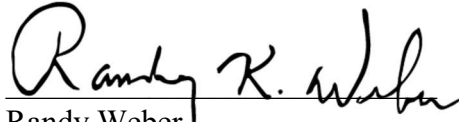
Troy Nehls
Member of Congress



August Pfluger
Member of Congress



Chip Roy
Member of Congress



Randy Weber
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Roger Williams
Member of Congress



Beth Van Duyne
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