

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
Office of Strategic Infrastructure
300 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20546-0001

Dear Presidential Commission on the United States Space Academy,

We write in strong support of the permanent establishment of the United States Space Academy (USSA) in Southeast Louisiana. We applaud President Trump for his leadership in cultivating the next generation of leaders who will advance America's dominance in space — safeguarding the nation's economic and national security.

There is no better place for USSA than Southeast Louisiana:

- **America's Rocket Factory** – For more than six decades, NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility has been America's premier aerospace manufacturing center. The 800+ acre complex has built the Apollo, Space Shuttle, and today's Artemis programs - including the massive core stages of NASA's Space Launch System. Every single manned spaceflight from America has been built in Louisiana.
- **The World's New Space Corridor** - New Orleans sits at the intersection of an emerging American space ecosystem:
 - **Michoud, New Orleans:** Human spaceflight manufacturing and advanced aerospace.
 - **Stennis Space Center, MS:** World-class rocket propulsion testing and research.
 - **Starbase, LA:** SpaceX's newly announced spaceport will be the largest and most active in the world.
- **High Density of Mission-Relevant Universities** – The city and region have a large education and workforce network, with premier institutions like Louisiana State University, Tulane, Loyola University, Xavier University of Louisiana, Dillard University, Southern University at New Orleans, and Delgado and Nunez Community Colleges. These institutions offer world-class Engineering, Science, AI, Cybersecurity, Business, Policy and Entrepreneurship, and are currently feeding NASA and other space companies.

Lastly, USSA's location in Southeast Louisiana would position it well within the broader Gulf Coast aerospace, defense, and technology ecosystem. The state's connections to NASA, the Department of War, advanced manufacturing, energy, maritime industries, and other strategically important sectors create an environment in which space-related education can have relevance well beyond the classroom.

Per the RFI, New Orleans has the requisite infrastructure and space to support a groundbreaking in 2027, serve the inaugural class of approximately 300 students in an interim location by fall 2028, and permanently establish a campus that can serve a minimum of 1,200 students by fall 2031, if not before. Furthermore, local and state officials strongly align with our federal delegation, and we stand ready to begin efforts immediately.

We proudly and strongly endorse the permanent establishment of USSA in Louisiana. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House



Steve Scalise
Majority Leader



Bill Cassidy
United States Senator



John Kennedy
United States Senator



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



Julia Letlow, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Troy Carter
Member of Congress



Cleo Fields
Member of Congress