Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 13, 2026

The Honorable Jared Isaacman
Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
300 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20546

Dear Administrator Isaacman,

We write in support of the State of Nevada's response to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Request for Information – Creation of the United States Space Academy. Nevada offers a distinctive combination of federal training and test infrastructure, active NASA lunar training capabilities, nationally recognized research universities, a growing aerospace and defense workforce, and an interior location, which, combined, make Nevada an ideal location to host the envisioned United States Space Academy (USSA).

Nevada already supports the nation's lunar exploration enterprise. The Nevada Space Proving Grounds at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) provides mission-scale lunar and Martian testing and training, and NASA astronauts preparing for Artemis IV are training there today. The site also carries a unique human-spaceflight legacy: every Apollo astronaut who walked on the Moon trained at the NNSS before flying to the lunar surface. A Nevada location would give USSA students access to an environment already used for federal space training, testing, and integration.

Nevada also offers substantial federal range and airspace capacity. The Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR) spans approximately 2.9 million acres and 12,000 square miles of military airspace and supports advanced operational testing and training. Together with the NNSS and the missions centered at Nellis Air Force Base and Creech Air Force Base, Nevada provides an established federal ecosystem for national-security training, research, testing, and operations. Moreover, the state has additional untapped potential for NASA's mission. Roughly 80 percent of the state is federal land, much of it with low population density and clear and predictable weather, making it ideal for a future partnership of this scale.

Nevada also has a robust academic and industrial base to support USSA's mission. The University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the University of Nevada, Reno are both Carnegie R1 research institutions. Further, the state's aerospace and defense sector supported more than 21,000 jobs last year, an increase of roughly 56 percent over the prior decade. These institutions, employers, and public-sector partners can support the research partnerships, internships, technical education, and workforce pipeline envisioned for the USSA.

For decades, Nevada has played a leading role in preparing our country to take on the pressing national security issues of the future. For example, Nevada is where the U.S. military tests advanced weapons and aircraft and where service members conduct training, all away from the curious eyes of our adversaries. As we look to the next domain—space—Nevada can similarly lead the way as a hub of research, innovation, and training to prepare our country for the years ahead. We therefore respectfully ask that Nevada receive full and fair consideration to house the USSA and stand ready to discuss how the State can support NASA's mission.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to working with you as you develop your recommendations to the President.

Sincerely,

Susie Lee
Member of Congress

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

Mark E. Amodei
Member of Congress