- 1 SJR15
- 2 209565-1
- 3 By Senators Livingston, Waggoner, Givhan, Melson, Scofield,
- Butler, Orr, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley, Chambliss,
- 5 Chesteen, Coleman-Madison, Dunn, Elliott, Figures, Gudger,
- 6 Holley, Jones, Marsh, McClendon, Price, Reed, Roberts,
- 7 Sanders-Fortier, Sessions, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smitherman,
- 8 Stutts, Whatley and Williams
- 9 RFD:
- 10 First Read: 03-FEB-21

ALABAMA AND REDSTONE ARSENAL FOR THE UNITED STATES SPACE COMMAND HEADQUARTERS AND TO COMMEND ALABAMA'S LEADERS FOR THEIR SUCCESSFUL RECRUITMENT EFFORT. WHEREAS, the United States considers unfettered freedom to operate in space vital to advancing the secur economic prosperity, and scientific knowledge of our nate the United States is reliant on space for vital military systems that protect our nation and on widely used consumptions that benefit our economy; and WHEREAS, the United States Space Command streng our nation's ability to deter conflict and ensure unfett access to and freedom to operate in space, and represent crucial step to improving the nation's space warfighting structure in our ever evolving world; and WHEREAS, the United States Space Command is the		
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25 newest unified combatant command under the Department of	24	WHEREAS, the United States Space Command is the
	25	newest unified combatant command under the Department of

Defense and includes forces from all military services; and

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WHEREAS, the United States Space Command will accomplish strategic objectives and enhance the capability of our military to protect our nation's dominance in space by employing assigned forces from every branch of the military to achieve preeminence in space, and delivering combat power by operating superior space capabilities such as communications, intelligence, navigation, and early missile detection warning; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Air Force conducted both virtual and on-site visits to assess which of six candidate locations would be best suited to host the U.S. Space Command Headquarters based on quantitative and qualitative factors related to mission, infrastructure capacity, community support, quality of life, education, and costs to the Department of Defense; and

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2021, the Secretary of the Air Force, on behalf of the Office of Secretary of Defense, selected Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, as the preferred location for the U.S. Space Command Headquarters from among six installations across the country after down-selecting from 24 states; and

WHEREAS, the January 13, 2021, announcement was the culmination of a complex, time-consuming process as the United States Air Force selection team considered a wide range of key indicators related to the command's mission, examining workforce availability, costs, the presence of Department of Defense assets, and much more; and

WHEREAS, the United States Air Force visited all of the cities in the competition to ascertain their advantages and these communities made extensive presentations to make their case; and the Air Force looked at all the compiled data points as part of its decision-making process and came to the resolute conclusion that Huntsville and Alabama were the superior choice meeting a very high standard across more critical indicators than any other competing community; and

WHEREAS, the United States Air Force explicitly commended Huntsville's Redstone Arsenal as the best choice for Space Command: "Huntsville compared favorably across more of these factors than any other community providing a large, qualified workforce, quality schools, superior infrastructure capacity, and low initial and recurring costs. Additionally, Redstone Arsenal offered a facility to support the headquarters, at no cost, while the permanent facility is being constructed"; and

WHEREAS, Redstone Arsenal, as the cradle of the nation's rocket program, is a thriving, 38,000-acre federal campus, home to more than 70 military commands and government agencies and over 70,000 employees; and

WHEREAS, Redstone Arsenal houses many organizations such as the Army Aviation and Missile Command, U.S. Missile Defense Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency/Missile and Space Intelligence Center, Army Space and Missile Defense Command, the Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation and Missile Center, and the Marshall Space Flight Center, NASA's

largest installation and the beating heart of its propulsion research; the Marshall Space Flight Center's scientists and engineers developed the Saturn V rocket that took man to the Moon, and they continue to make major contributions to the Artemis program, which will return humanity to the Moon and beyond; and

WHEREAS, every major aerospace company has a significant presence in Huntsville and the surrounding area:
Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Blue Origin, Aerojet Rocketdyne,
Northrop Grumman and Space X, among others and The United
Launch Alliance builds its powerful rockets in nearby Decatur;
and

WHEREAS, Huntsville's concentration of aerospace engineers is among the highest in the nation, underscoring and showcasing the excellence of the talented and ready workforce; moreover, Huntsville and the surrounding area is one of the most highly ranked in the nation for STEM careers, with a high ratio of STEM careers in the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the decision to house the U.S. Space

Command Headquarters at Redstone Arsenal is yet another

chapter in Huntsville and Alabama's unparalleled historic,

six-decade long, unique leadership in space that includes the

development of the rocket that went to the Moon, the nation's

only defense system against intercontinental ballistic

missiles and Army programs in missiles and space that keep our

warfighters and allies aware and safe; and

WHEREAS, in addition to a large presence of critical 2 government agencies focused on civil space, research, development, life cycle management, and acquisition of space 3 and missile systems, Huntsville and the State of Alabama are 5 home to hundreds of aerospace and defense companies ranging from major prime contractors to small, locally owned businesses that employ thousands of highly skilled workers, the development of advanced technology and Artificial 9 Intelligence, as well as research-intensive universities; and 10 WHEREAS, it took a broad, inclusive team effort to recruit the U.S. Space Command Headquarters; this effort was 11 12 led by Senator Richard Shelby and included the Redstone 13 Regional Alliance, Governor Kay Ivey, Alabama Commerce Secretary Greg Canfield, Mayor Tommy Battle, Lieutenant 14 15 Governor Will Ainsworth, the Alabama Space Authority, and numerous volunteers and leaders in government, business, 16 17 education, and economic and workforce development

professionals; now therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we recognize, affirm, and honor the United States Space Command and its new headquarters at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama, and express our deepest appreciation to the United States Air Force for its excellent selection, and we express gratitude to the Alabama leaders who worked tirelessly towards this successful decision.

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, That we strongly dispute any assertion that Alabama is anything less than the optimal

location for the United States Space Command Headquarters, and similarly rebuke any allegations that Alabama was chosen for any reason other than its unique suitability to host this critical mission, and we applaud the United States Air Force selection of Redstone Arsenal above the other potential, but unsuitable, sites.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Air Force, and the members of the Alabama Congressional delegation.

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