



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 24-012

BY SENATOR(S) Gardner and Bridges, Baisley, Coleman, Cutter, Danielson, Exum, Fields, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hinrichsen, Jaquez Lewis, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Liston, Lundeen, Marchman, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Pelton B., Pelton R., Priola, Rich, Roberts, Rodriguez, Simpson, Smallwood, Sullivan, Van Winkle, Will, Zenzinger, Fenberg;

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Armagost and Joseph, Bird, Bradley, Brown, Catlin, Clifford, Daugherty, DeGraaf, Duran, English, Evans, Frizell, Hamrick, Hartsook, Herod, Kipp, Lieder, Lindstedt, Lukens, Lynch, Marshall, McCormick, McLachlan, Ortiz, Pugliese, Snyder, Soper, Story, Taggart, Titone, Valdez, Weinberg, Weissman, Wilson, Winter T., Woodrow, Young, McCluskie.

CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 4, 2024, AS "COLORADO AEROSPACE DAY".

WHEREAS, Our nation and the world have significantly benefitted from technological and scientific advances resulting from space exploration and aerospace activities; and

WHEREAS, Colorado ranks first in the nation for aerospace employment concentration; and

WHEREAS, There are over 37,000 Coloradans who are directly employed in aerospace, with the aerospace cluster supporting over 250,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, Colorado is home to the nation's top aerospace companies, including Ball Aerospace, Blue Origin, Boeing, L3Harris, Lockheed Martin Space, Maxar Technologies, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, Sierra Space, and United Launch Alliance, and close to 500 additional companies that support the aerospace sector by providing services and developing products, including spacecraft, launch vehicles,

satellites, command and control software, sensors, and navigation operations; and

WHEREAS, Colorado is a strategic location for national space and cyber activity, with five key military commands: North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), the United States Northern Command, the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense, the United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, and the permanent home of United States Space Command, and three space-related United States Space Force bases: Buckley, Peterson, and Schriever; and

WHEREAS, The United States Air Force Academy, along with Colorado's colleges and universities, including the University of Colorado Boulder, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University, Metropolitan State University of Denver, University of Denver, Colorado Mesa University, and Fort Lewis College, provides access to world-class aerospace-related degrees and offers aerospace companies one of the country's most educated workforces; and

WHEREAS, Various organizations are key to Colorado's prominence in aerospace, such as the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the world's largest aerospace technical society; the Colorado Space Coalition, a group of industry stakeholders working to grow and promote Colorado as a center of excellence for aerospace; the Colorado chapter of Citizens for Space Exploration, housed within the Colorado Business Roundtable, whose mission is to promote better understanding of aerospace and its importance in our economy and daily lives, as well as promoting the importance of human space exploration; and the Colorado Space Business Roundtable, an organization that works to convene stakeholders from industry, government, and academia to advance aerospace business and workforce opportunities throughout the state. Together, these organizations form the Colorado chapter of the Aerospace States Association, a nonpartisan organization of lieutenant governors and associate members from aerospace organizations and academia who represent states' interests in federal aerospace and aviation policy development, currently led by Colorado Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera; and

WHEREAS, The Colorado Air and Space Port seeks to serve as America's hub for commercial space transportation, research, and development. This horizontal launch facility will have the potential to become the foundation for a global suborbital transportation network connecting Colorado globally; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-fourth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly:

(1) Strongly urge and request the government of the United States of America to take action to preserve and enhance American leadership in space, spur innovation, and ensure our continued national and economic security by increasing funding for space exploration and activities;

(2) Congratulate NASA and Lockheed Martin Space on the return of its mission OSIRIS-ReX to earth on September 24, 2023, after its six-year journey from Bennu with the first-ever sample return from an asteroid;

(3) Recognize and appreciate the Colorado companies, including Ball Aerospace, Boeing, Lockheed Martin Space, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, United Launch Alliance, and others, that are key to enabling human exploration throughout our solar system, supporting NASA's Artemis Program to take humans to the moon and beyond. These companies' work continues to expand our understanding of the universe, enabling a new generation of groundbreaking research with innovations like the James Webb Space Telescope, and will help lead the way in the search for life beyond our planet with the Habitable Worlds Observatory;

(4) Recognize and appreciate the exciting new innovations such as the successful inaugural flight of the United Launch Alliance Vulcan Centaur Rocket on January 8, 2024, as well as the upcoming inaugural flight of Boeing's CST-100 Starliner Crew Test Flight to the International Space Station and the upcoming inaugural flight of the Sierra Space Dream Chaser, the world's only winged commercial spaceplane, to the International Space Station, both of which will launch on a United Launch Alliance rocket; and

(5) Hereby declare March 4, 2024, to be "Colorado Aerospace Day".

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to President Joseph Biden, Jr.; Vice President Kamala Harris; Speaker of the House of Representatives Mike Johnson; House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries; Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer; Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell; Senator John Hickenlooper; Senator Michael Bennet; Congresswoman Diana DeGette; Congressman Joe Neguse; Congresswoman Lauren Boebert; Congressman Ken Buck; Congressman Doug Lamborn; Congressman Jason Crow; Congresswoman Brittany Pettersen; Congresswoman Yadira Caraveo; Bill Nelson, NASA Administrator; Michael Whitaker, Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration; Governor Jared Polis; Lieutenant Governor and Co-chair, Colorado Space Coalition, Dianne Primavera; Brigadier General Laura Clellan, The Adjutant General of Colorado; General Stephen N. Whiting, Commander, U.S. Space Command; Colonel Marcus Jackson, Buckley Garrison Commander, Buckley Space Force Base; Dr. Christopher Scolese, Director, National Reconnaissance Office; Ross B. Garelick Bell, Executive Director, Aerospace States Association; Heather Pringle, Chief Executive Officer, Space Foundation; Dr. Ronald M. Sega, Co-chair, Colorado Space Coalition; Michael Gass, Co-chair, Colorado Space Coalition; Debra Wilcox, Chair, Colorado Space Business Roundtable; Christie Lee and Stacey DeFore, Co-chairs, Colorado Citizens for Space Exploration; Marshall Lee, Chair, AIAA Rocky

Mountain Section; Jeff Kloska, Director, Colorado Air and Space Port;
and Debbie Brown, President, Colorado Business Roundtable.

Steve Fenberg
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Julie McCluskie
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Cindi L. Markwell
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Robin Jones
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
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