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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 1, 2019

The Honorable Heather Wilson
Secretary of the Air Force
3000 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350

Dear Secretary Wilson,

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to express support for locating the US Space Command Center at Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Vandenberg Air Force Base already supports West Coast launch activities for the Air Force, Department of Defense, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and private industry. It is also home to units including the Joint Force Space Component for Space, Combined Space Operations Center, 14th Air Force, 30th Space Wing, 576th Flight Test Squadron, Missile Defense Agency, 381st Training Group, National Reconnaissance Office, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. This record of service demonstrates that Vandenberg is fully prepared to support the mission of the US Space Command Center.

Santa Barbara County and other communities in the Central Coast of California have a long record of supporting our nation's armed forces. Vandenberg is the third largest Air Force Base in the United States and houses a 15,000-foot runway and 465 facilities. The extensive infrastructure that already exists, the supportive community, and the excellent quality of life in our region have all contributed to the proven capabilities at the base and make it an excellent candidate for Space Command headquarters.

Thank you for considering this information and the strong community support for Vandenberg as you conduct the selection process for the Space Command Center.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilchrest
Washington Representative

DWG:awg