

CHRISTIAN D. MENEFEE
18TH DISTRICT, TEXAS
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT
REFORM
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY



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Washington, DC 20515

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The Honorable Jared Isaacman, Chair
Presidential Commission on the United States Space Academy
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
300 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20546

October 1, 2026

Dear Members of the Space Academy Selection Commission:

We write to express our support for bringing the United States Space Academy to Texas. This is a cause that unites Texans across party lines, and we are proud to stand with colleagues across the aisle in making that case to the Commission.

Texas is built for exactly this endeavor. From the plains of the Panhandle to the Gulf Coast to the Rio Grande Valley, our state already operates the workforce, the infrastructure, and the industry base this Academy will need to be successful. Texas has been home to “Space City” for more than 60 years, home to Johnson Space Center and Mission Control, and that history is one piece of a much larger picture. Across every region of the state, universities, research labs, and companies are already doing the work of space exploration today.

Johnson Space Center has run Mission Control for every American human spaceflight since the Gemini program, and it trains the astronauts who carry out those missions. Generations of engineers and flight directors have built their careers there, and that expertise stays in Texas, feeding directly into research, teaching, and private industry. 60 years of that track record gives Texas a base of institutional knowledge no other state can match. And that history comes with a practical edge: in Houston, the land and infrastructure needed for a new campus already sit right next to Johnson Space Center’s gates, giving whoever builds there a running start few places in the country can offer.

Texas’s knowledge and experience base supports an aerospace industry that reaches every region of the state. Texas is home to thousands of aerospace companies and 700 defense and aerospace facilities, supporting 200,000 jobs. Companies across the state are building rockets, lunar landers, and satellites right now, and that industry depends on a steady supply of trained engineers and technicians coming out of Texas classrooms and job sites.

Our workforce is one of our biggest advantages. Texas is home to the “energy capital of the world,” and for decades our state has trained engineers and skilled tradespeople for high pressure, high stakes work in the energy industry. We’re doing the same in aerospace: our workers are reading complex systems, working under pressure, and solving problems in the field rather than only in a lab. Texas has also become one of the fastest growing and most diverse states in the country, giving the Academy a student body and community that reflects the nation it will serve.

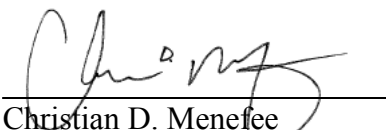
Our universities are training the next generation to keep that pipeline full. The University of Texas System has graduated a dozen astronauts who together have logged hundreds of days in space, and its Center for Space Research and Texas Advanced Computing Center already support rocket propulsion modeling and orbital tracking work used across the industry. The University of Texas at San Antonio has built a cybersecurity institute dedicated to protecting satellites and space infrastructure from digital threats, work that grows more important every year. Texas A&M is also investing heavily, opening a major new Space Institute at NASA's Exploration Park this fall.

Our state government has already put money behind this vision, appropriating hundreds of millions of dollars for a state Space Commission and for new research infrastructure. Texas has shown that we put our money where our mouth is, and that support will only grow if the Academy calls Texas home.

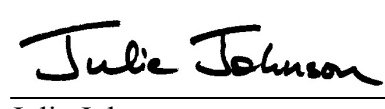
An Academy of this caliber needs a state where the work is already happening, where students can walk onto a real campus and see engineers building real hardware, and where communities across the state already understand what it means to send people into space. Texas offers that today.

As Texas submits its proposal to be the home for the United States Space Academy, we respectfully ask the Commission to give our state full and serious consideration.

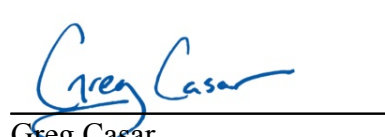
Sincerely,

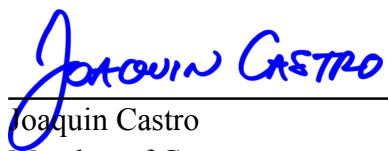

Christian D. Menefee
Member of Congress


Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

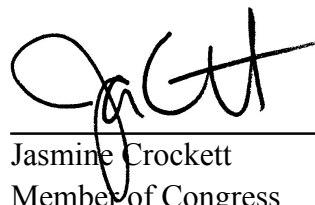

Julie Johnson
Member of Congress


Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress

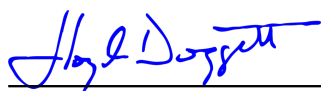

Greg Casar
Member of Congress



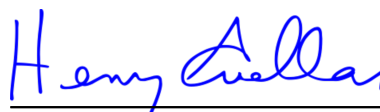
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



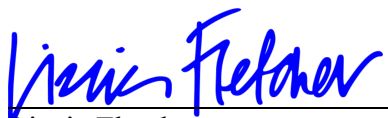
Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



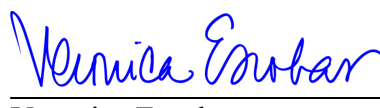
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
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Marc A. Veasey
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