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U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

February 19, 2021

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Mr. Sean O'Donnell
Acting Inspector General
Office of the Secretary of Defense

Dear Mr. O'Donnell:

I am reaching out to request that you open a Department of Defense Inspector General investigation into the selection of Huntsville, Alabama as the Headquarters of the United States Space Command (USSPACECOM). I am aware that you are in receipt of a similar request sent by Chairmen John Garamendi and James Cooper of the House Armed Services Committee on January 19, 2021. I support that request (enclosed) and urge you to move expeditiously to accept the investigation into this important matter.

I continue to be concerned that the strategic basing process appears to have been subject to undue political influence, as do Congressmen Garamendi and Cooper. As concerning, however, is that the basing decision may not be in the best interest of our national security, so your investigation must not only focus on any political influence, but also on the foundational metrics and methodology behind the decision.

Specifically, I request you provide analysis of how the Department of the Air Force (DAF) scored each location considered. Did the scoring process differ from the historical strategic basing decision-making processes of the DAF and Department of Defense? Were the evaluation criteria applied equally to each of the sites in question? Was there a full and true accounting for "Costs to DoD" in the scoring assessment? As well as these questions, please review any other significant findings, such as impacts to mission and national security, as you assess the evaluation each site and the overall process.

If you have any questions about this request, please reach out to Ian Bennitt at 202-674-2654 or at Ian.Bennitt@mail.house.gov. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Doug Lamborn
Ranking Member
Readiness Subcommittee