

**DOUG LAMBORN**  
5TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
CHAIRMAN,  
WATER, POWER AND OCEANS



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0605**

2402 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
202-225-4422  
FAX 202-226-2638

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
1125 KELLY JOHNSON BLVD, SUITE 330  
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80920  
719-520-0055  
FAX: 719-520-0840

WEBSITE:  
[Lamborn.house.gov](http://Lamborn.house.gov)

September 19, 2018

Honorable Patrick M. Shanahan  
1010 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1010

Dear Deputy Secretary Shanahan,

I write to express my strong support for the Trump Administration's efforts to substantially reform the organization of our defense space community. As you know, space is both the most unique and most vital domain within our national security enterprise, but also the one which, until recently, we paid the least attention. While space was once a safe haven for our force-multiplying assets, it has become a contested domain in which our near-peer competitors are aggressively seeking to close the capability gap in space and neutralize our military overmatch. This is not a problem which we can plan to deal with at a future date, but a clear and present danger we must address as quickly as possible.

Given the imminent nature of the threat, I strongly urge you to stand up U.S. Space Command in Colorado Springs, Colorado. As stated in the Final Report on Organizational and Management Structure for the National Security Space Components of the Department of Defense, the United States faces "rapidly growing threats to our space capabilities." It is imperative we move swiftly to establish an operational unified combatant command that will develop our warfighting doctrine in the space domain, accelerate integration of emerging space capabilities, and ensure unfettered access in order to protect our vital interests.

Establishing U.S. Space Command in Colorado Springs is the only serious option for providing the desired capability on the shortest, most cost-effective timeline. Home to the National Space Defense Center, Joint Force Space Component Command, Air Force Space Command, the 21st and 50th Space Wings, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command-U.S. Army Strategic Command (Forward) (including the Headquarters element and 1st Space Brigade), the National Guard's 100th Missile Defense Brigade, the National Security Space Institute, and over 70 tenant units throughout the Defense and Intelligence communities, all conducting space operations and support functions, Colorado Springs already has the infrastructure and conducts the operations and training required of a new combatant command. Ripping out these assets and starting over

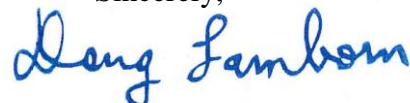
at a new location would be the height of irresponsibility in the midst of this current threat environment.

It is also important to note the community support in Colorado for space operations is unmatched. The Colorado Springs area is consistently one of the top requested duty stations for service members and their families, thus ensuring the on-going health of the defense space community as servicemen and women pursue orders to the area. Colorado remains one of the most desirable places to train, work, live, and retire in the country, and the Fifth Congressional District boasts the largest number of veterans of any congressional district in the U.S. This distinction ensures men and women transitioning from active duty will have access to a huge support network.

Finally, Colorado ranks first in the nation for its concentration of aerospace jobs, with more than 26,000 employees and a payroll of \$3.3 billion, and Colorado is the nation's second-largest aerospace economy (behind California)—it ascends to the largest aerospace economy in the country if calculated on a per capita basis. Furthermore, our entire national space defense enterprise would benefit from the expansive space industry talent pool throughout the Front Range, both defense and civilian. Colorado's well-funded educational system has many space-related programs, which in turn feed the thriving space industry spread throughout the state. The many engineering and space-related programs throughout the state's college system, the space situational awareness missions and space launch industry in Denver, the defense space industrial base in Colorado Springs, and a robust network of technology incubators and accelerators throughout the Front Range innovation ecosystem. The synergy and compounding benefits accrued by locating U.S. Space Command in Colorado cannot be overstated.

The Trump Administration has recognized the deadly serious and extant threats to our assets in space, and has responded with decisive boldness to address the problem. However, these reforms will be for naught if the vast defense space resources invested into the Colorado Springs area are built from the ground up at a new location or locations. Doing so would only buy our potential adversaries more time to close the gap between our space capabilities, or even surpass us in some areas. The Department of Defense must be ready to execute warfighting operations in space as soon as possible, and no community is more prepared to help lead that effort than Colorado Springs. Simply put, Colorado Springs is the epicenter of national defense space activities. I fully support the Department's vision for space operations and stand ready to offer our assistance any way we can. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

CC: Honorable Heather Wilson, Secretary of the Air Force