

Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20510

December 6, 2021

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable James Inhofe
Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Reed, Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Inhofe, and Ranking Member Rogers:

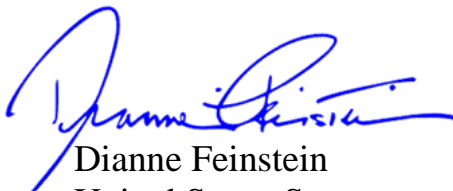
We write in support of Section 921 of the House-passed Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) National Defense Authorization Act, and request that the Senate concede to the House position during negotiations so that a Space National Guard is authorized by Congress and established. As you know, active-duty space units were moved out of the Air Force and placed in the new Space Force upon its establishment in 2019; however, space units in the Air Force's National Guard component, the Air National Guard, remain orphaned in an Air Force that is no longer charged with the space mission. We believe this disconnect between the National Guard and Space Force will damage National Guard space units' ability to execute their mission effectively.

A National Guard for the Space Force is critical to ensuring this service can properly identify and prioritize requirements for personnel, training, facilities, and equipment. Further, it would eliminate the need to route funding between the Air Force and Space Force, which is a cumbersome and wasteful process. A Space National Guard would be better suited to implement the unique mobilization processes, inspection systems, policies, and culture of the Space Force – all of which would enhance readiness and boost morale. Finally, a Space National Guard would provide a seamless surge capacity for the Space Force while capturing the training and talent of active-duty Space Force personnel who move to the private sector but want to continue their service in the National Guard.


It is our understanding that the Department of the Air Force, Space Force, and the National Guard Bureau developed a plan to establish a Space National Guard, but a report on this plan has not been provided to Congress as required by Section 931 of the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021*. The National Guard Bureau has said the plan would impose virtually no cost and would fit under current budgets. Furthermore, this plan would not create additional units nor require any new construction, general officer billets, or staff positions. The Congressional Budget Office's estimate of a lean Space National Guard assumed unnecessary expenses, including a \$20 million headquarters building that the National Guard Bureau says would be unneeded.

We believe this plan would properly align current forces without creating additional growth and would enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of what we have today. As you know, America's adversaries are aggressively pursuing the ability to deny the United States the use of space. Aligning National Guard units performing the space mission under Space Force is a low cost and common-sense way to make the most of America's space assets. We urge adoption of the House provision to authorize a Space National Guard as a reserve component of the United States Space Force.


Sincerely,




Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator




John Cornyn
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



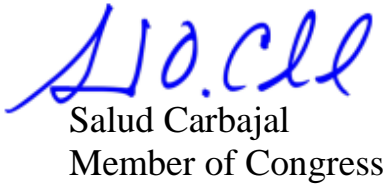
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



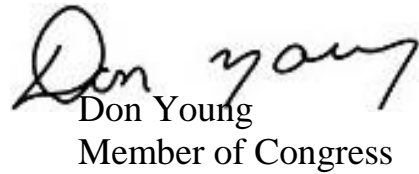
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



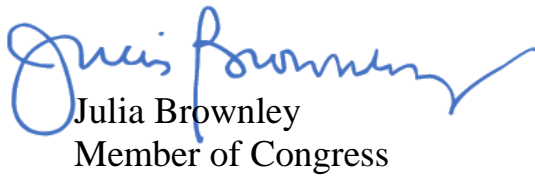
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



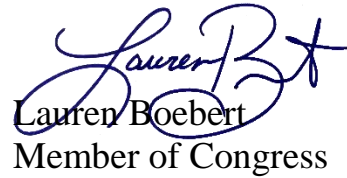
Kaiulani Kahele
Member of Congress



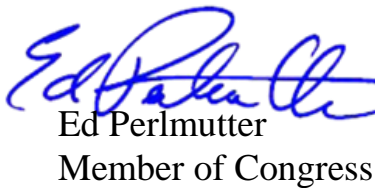
Don Young
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress



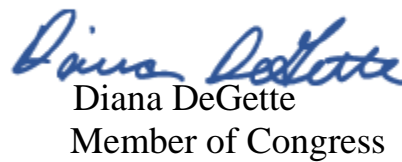
Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Ed Case
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress