

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 10, 2021

Mr. Frank Kendall
Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Air Force
Washington, D.C. 20330-1670

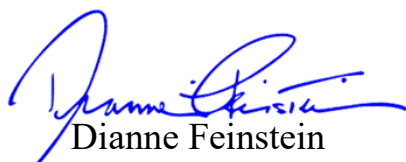
Dear Secretary Kendall:

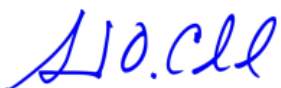
We write to express support for Vandenberg Space Force Base as the permanent location of the Space Training and Readiness Command (STARCOM) and to ask that you ensure the selection process is based on a rigorous and objective evaluation of each proposed site. We are concerned about reports that the previous Administration's decision to establish U.S. Space Command at Redstone Arsenal was based on politics instead of the merits, and ask you to ensure this does not happen in future basing decisions.


We are also concerned about the decision to temporarily base STARCOM at Peterson Space Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colorado. As you know, Vandenberg Space Force Base already plays an important role in space training and operations. Vandenberg trains space operators at the Air Education and Training Command's 381st Training Group; manages missile testing; and launches satellites into polar orbit. Further, Vandenberg's proximity to California's world-renowned aerospace industry, universities, and research institutions makes it well-suited to support the permanent establishment of STARCOM.

We trust that under your leadership, future basing decisions will be carried out in an impartial manner and will follow established processes. We look forward to working with you and your staff on behalf of Airmen, Guardians, and their families. Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,


Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator


Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress


Alex Padilla
United States Senator