



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

September 25, 2020

The Honorable Barbara M. Barrett  
Secretary of the Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20330-1670

Dear Secretary Barrett,

We write in strong support of the City of Sterling Heights, Michigan's application – in partnership with Macomb County, the State of Michigan, and the Michigan Air National Guard – to locate the new United States Space Command (USSPACECOM) headquarters at Selfridge Air National Guard Base (SANGB).

Hosting the new USSPACECOM headquarters enjoys wide and enthusiastic support across the State of Michigan. Our state is uniquely qualified to advance the critical mission of the U.S. Air Force's newest command due to its immense resources of manufacturing expertise and skilled technicians, engineers, and scientists. Michigan has a long history of supporting our military and national defense, and that tradition continues today. The state currently has 4,000 defense industry suppliers and 1,000 prime contractors that serve 17 military commands and installations – a significant number of which are located in Sterling Heights on the Mound Road Defense Corridor, including BAE Systems, General Dynamics, and the nearby U.S. Army Detroit Arsenal. Additionally, Michigan is fast becoming one of the nation's leading space arsenals with its effective collaboration between the public and private sectors, led by the Michigan Aerospace Manufacturing Association and the state's Michigan Defense Center, with investments in direct support of space sensing, space cyber, and electronic warfare capabilities.

As the largest Air Force base in the Reserve Component with all the amenities of an Active Component Installation, SANGB has the capacity required to host this new command. SANGB has identified three ready-to-build locations on the base, all of which would amply meet the security, data transmission, and space requirements for the approximately 1,400 military and civilian personnel working in the new headquarters. In addition, the base has over 111,000 square-feet readily available in four vacant buildings that could be used during an initial mission standup phase or as supplemental space when a new building is constructed.

Macomb County, and Michigan more broadly, have the resources to support Space Force personnel and we highly recommend you consider the many benefits for service members' and

their families' quality of life the area offers. For military families, SANGB has significant support facilities, including a base exchange and the 124-child Bryant Child Development Center as well as additional childcare through the Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood referral program. The area enjoys an abundance of affordable housing, access to excellent healthcare and schools, and the amenities of being located in a major metropolitan region, including connections to 170 destinations around the world served by the Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport; yet all of which are within easy distance to Michigan's innumerable lakes and pristine wilderness.

We appreciate you evaluating SANGB for the new USSPACECOM headquarters. For the above reasons, we believe that the State of Michigan site is the optimal location that would best serve the mission of USSPACECOM while providing a high quality of life for U.S. Air Force personnel and their families. We look forward to hearing your decision and stand ready to answer any further questions the U.S. Air Force may have.

Sincerely,



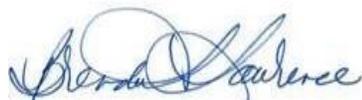
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