

**SJR94 INTRODUCED**



1 NXE688-1

2 By Senators Scofield, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley,  
3 Bell, Butler, Carnley, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman,  
4 Coleman-Madison, Elliott, Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Hatcher,  
5 Hovey, Jones, Kelley, Livingston, Melson, Orr, Price, Reed,  
6 Roberts, Sessions, Shelnut, Singleton, Smitherman, Stewart,  
7 Stutts, Waggoner, Weaver, Williams

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SJR\_\_\_ REAFFIRMING REDSTONE ARSENAL IN HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA,  
AS THE BEST PERMANENT LOCATION FOR THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE  
U.S. SPACE COMMAND TO ADVANCE OUR NATION'S VITAL NATIONAL  
SECURITY.

WHEREAS, the United States considers unfettered  
freedom to operate in space vital to advancing the security,  
economic prosperity, and scientific knowledge of our nation;  
the United States is reliant on space for vital military  
systems that protect our nation and on widely used consumer  
systems that benefit our economy; and

WHEREAS, the United States Space Command strengthens  
our nation's ability to deter conflict and ensure unfettered  
access to and freedom to operate in space and represents a  
crucial step to improving the nation's space warfighting  
structure in our ever evolving world; and

WHEREAS, the United States Space Command is the  
newest unified combatant command under the Department of  
Defense and includes forces from all military services; and

WHEREAS, the United States Space Command will  
accomplish strategic objectives and enhance the capability  
of our military to protect our nation's dominance in space



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26 by employing assigned forces from every branch of the  
27 military to achieve preeminence in space, and delivering  
28 combat power by operating superior space capabilities such  
29 as communications, intelligence, navigation, and early  
30 missile detection warning; and

31 WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Air  
32 Force conducted both virtual and on-site visits to assess  
33 which of six candidate locations would be best suited to  
34 host the U.S. Space Command Headquarters based on  
35 quantitative and qualitative factors related to mission,  
36 infrastructure capacity, community support, quality of life,  
37 education, and costs to the Department of Defense; and

38 WHEREAS, on January 13, 2021, the Secretary of the  
39 Air Force, on behalf of the Office of Secretary of Defense,  
40 selected Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, as the  
41 preferred location for the U.S. Space Command Headquarters  
42 after down-selecting from 24 states and over 65 other  
43 possible locations; and

44 WHEREAS, the January 13, 2021, announcement was the  
45 culmination of a complex, time-consuming process as the  
46 United States Air Force selection team considered a wide  
47 range of key indicators related to the command's mission,  
48 examining workforce availability, costs, the presence of  
49 Department of Defense assets, and much more; and

50 WHEREAS, the United States Air Force visited all of



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51 the cities in the competition to ascertain their advantages  
52 and these communities made extensive presentations to make  
53 their case; and the Air Force considered all the compiled  
54 data points as part of its decision-making process and came  
55 to the resolute conclusion that Huntsville and Alabama were  
56 the superior choice, meeting a very high standard across  
57 more critical indicators than any other competing community;  
58 and

59 WHEREAS, the United States Air Force explicitly  
60 commended Huntsville's Redstone Arsenal as the best choice  
61 for Space Command: "Huntsville compared favorably across  
62 more of these factors than any other community providing a  
63 large, qualified workforce, quality schools, superior  
64 infrastructure capacity, and low initial and recurring  
65 costs. Additionally, Redstone Arsenal offered a facility to  
66 support the headquarters, at no cost, while the permanent  
67 facility is being constructed"; and

68 WHEREAS, moreover, a U.S. Government Accountability  
69 Office report dated May 2022, stated, "Air Force analysis  
70 identified Redstone Arsenal as the highest scoring location  
71 in the Evaluation Phase, the highest ranked location in the  
72 Selection Phase, and the location with the most advantages  
73 in the decision matrix. Air Force officials, including the  
74 then Secretary of the Air Force, stated that the decision to  
75 identify Redstone Arsenal as the preferred location stemmed



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76 from Air Force analysis showing it was the strongest  
77 candidate location"; and

78 WHEREAS, Redstone Arsenal, as the cradle of the  
79 nation's rocket program, is a thriving, 38,000-acre federal  
80 campus, home to more than 70 military commands and  
81 government agencies and over 70,000 employees; and

82 WHEREAS, Redstone Arsenal houses many organizations  
83 such as the Army Aviation and Missile Command, U.S. Missile  
84 Defense Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency/Missile and  
85 Space Intelligence Center, Army Space and Missile Defense  
86 Command, the Army Combat Capabilities Development Command  
87 Aviation and Missile Center, and the Marshall Space Flight  
88 Center, NASA's largest installation and the beating heart of  
89 its propulsion research; the Marshall Space Flight Center's  
90 scientists and engineers developed the Saturn V rocket that  
91 took man to the Moon, and they continue to make major  
92 contributions to the Artemis program, which will return  
93 humanity to the Moon and beyond; and

94 WHEREAS, Redstone Arsenal is uniquely accessible by  
95 rail, water, air, and highway; NASA's Marshall Space Flight  
96 Center and the U.S. Missile Defense Agency are located on  
97 the Redstone Arsenal campus with an existing world-class  
98 aerospace and defense workforce; the City of Huntsville has  
99 affordable cost-of-living, access to quality K-12 and  
100 university education, existing infrastructure supporting



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101 Alabama's most populous city, and job opportunities for  
102 spouses; and

103 WHEREAS, every major aerospace company has a  
104 significant presence in Huntsville and the surrounding area:  
105 Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Blue Origin, Aerojet Rocketdyne,  
106 Northrop Grumman, and Space X, among others, and The United  
107 Launch Alliance builds its powerful rockets in nearby  
108 Decatur; and

109 WHEREAS, Huntsville's concentration of aerospace  
110 engineers is among the highest in the nation, underscoring  
111 and showcasing the excellence of the talented and ready  
112 workforce; moreover, Huntsville and the surrounding area is  
113 one of the most highly ranked in the nation for STEM  
114 careers, with a high ratio of STEM careers in the workforce;  
115 and

116 WHEREAS, the decision to house the U.S. Space Command  
117 Headquarters at Redstone Arsenal is yet another chapter in  
118 Huntsville and Alabama's unparalleled historic, six-decade  
119 long, unique leadership in space that includes the  
120 development of the rocket that went to the Moon, the  
121 nation's only defense system against intercontinental  
122 ballistic missiles, and Army programs in missiles and space  
123 that keep our warfighters and allies aware and safe; and

124 WHEREAS, in addition to a large presence of critical  
125 government agencies focused on civil space, research,



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126 development, life cycle management, and acquisition of space  
127 and missile systems, Huntsville and the State of Alabama are  
128 home to hundreds of aerospace and defense companies ranging  
129 from major prime contractors to small, locally-owned  
130 businesses that employ thousands of highly skilled workers,  
131 the development of advanced technology and Artificial  
132 Intelligence, as well as research-intensive universities;  
133 now therefore,

134 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
135 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we recognize and affirm the  
136 United States Space Command's permanent headquarters at  
137 Redstone Arsenal in Alabama as critical to our national  
138 security and military readiness; express our deepest  
139 appreciation to the United States Air Force for its  
140 excellent selection; and respectfully urge the Biden  
141 Administration to affirm Redstone Arsenal as the permanent  
142 headquarters of the U.S. Space Command.

143 BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, That we strongly dispute any  
144 assertion that Alabama is anything less than the optimal  
145 location for the United States Space Command Headquarters,  
146 and similarly rebuke any allegations that Alabama was chosen  
147 for any reason other than its unique suitability to host  
148 this critical mission, and we applaud the United States Air  
149 Force selection of Redstone Arsenal for SPACECOM  
150 Headquarters above the other potential sites.



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151           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this  
152 resolution be transmitted to the President of the United  
153 States, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Air  
154 Force, and the members of the Alabama Congressional  
155 delegation.