

**First Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R13-0949.01 Gwynne Middleton x4340

SJR13-020

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 13-020

101 **CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION OF "COLORADO AEROSPACE DAY".**

1 WHEREAS, Our nation and the world have significantly benefited
2 from technological and scientific advances resulting from space
3 exploration and aerospace activities; and

4 WHEREAS, Space technologies benefit the everyday lives of the
5 citizens of our nation and the state of Colorado, including technologies
6 such as global positioning system satellites (GPS) that not only help us
7 navigate but also offer a wide range of uses in agriculture, financial
8 transactions, and search and rescue operations; weather satellites that help
9 us plan our daily lives and give advance warning of severe weather
10 events; and space exploration that helps us understand our universe and
11 has resulted in thousands of innovations subsequently adopted for a wide
12 variety of commercial and medical uses; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 WHEREAS, The United States lost the ability to put persons in
2 space with our own national assets with the end of NASA's space shuttle
3 program, forcing us to rely on other countries for space exploration
4 program research; and

5 WHEREAS, Colorado is key to regaining the ability of the United
6 States to put persons into space with programs such as the Orion
7 Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle that Lockheed Martin is developing with
8 NASA for missions beyond low-earth orbit and the Dream Chaser that
9 Sierra Nevada Corporation's Space Systems is developing to deliver
10 persons and cargo to the International Space Station and to other missions
11 within low-earth orbit aboard United Launch Alliance (ULA) launch
12 vehicles; and

13 WHEREAS, Companies such as Ball Aerospace, Boeing, Northrop
14 Grumman, Raytheon, ITT Exelis, and many others in Colorado all make
15 significant contributions to aerospace; and

16 WHEREAS, Colorado was a significant contributor to the premier
17 space event of this decade, the Mars Science Laboratory "Curiosity"
18 mission to Mars, with the involvement of many Colorado companies
19 including the launch by ULA, major subsystems such as the aeroshell
20 provided by Lockheed Martin, critical elements of the landing system
21 provided by Sierra Nevada Corporation, and sensor instruments provided
22 by Southwest Research Institute; and

23 WHEREAS, Colorado has the second-largest aerospace economy
24 in the United States, with over 165,000 people employed in space-related
25 jobs, ranking only behind California; and

26 WHEREAS, Eight of the nation's top aerospace contractors have
27 significant operations in Colorado and more than 400 space-related
28 companies call the state home, with over 25,000 private sector jobs
29 developing products from spacecraft, launch vehicles, and satellites to
30 command and control software, sensors, and navigation operations; and

31 WHEREAS, Colorado is a strategic location for national space
32 activity, with four key military commands: Air Force Space Command,
33 Army Space Command, United States Northern Command
34 (USNORTHCOM), and the North American Aerospace Defense
35 (NORAD), as well as three space-related Air Force bases: Buckley,

1 Peterson, and Schriever; and

2 WHEREAS, Along with major military installations, department
3 of defense facilities, and NASA research activities, Colorado's
4 universities are among the world's best for aerospace-related degrees; and

5 WHEREAS, Webster University's Space Systems Operations
6 Management (SPSM) graduate students, in cooperation with the Colorado
7 Space Business Roundtable, formulated the strategic analysis and
8 business plan that led Governor Hickenlooper and the Colorado General
9 Assembly to designate Front Range Airport as "Spaceport Colorado" and
10 to pursue licensing to operate as Colorado's commercial space
11 transportation hub of the future; and

12 WHEREAS, Front Range Airport is pursuing designation as a
13 commercial spaceport by, among other things, enlisting faculty and
14 students at Metropolitan State University of Denver's aviation and
15 aerospace department to assist in feasibility studies for the integration of
16 aircraft and space vehicles in the surrounding airspace as well as
17 conducting training for suborbital commercial operations; and

18 WHEREAS, Colorado is fortunate to have the leadership of
19 organizations such as the Colorado chapter of the American Institute of
20 Aeronautics and Astronautics that addresses the professional needs and
21 interests of the past, current, and future aerospace workforce to advance
22 the state of aerospace science, engineering, technology, operations, and
23 policy to benefit our global society; the Colorado Space Coalition that
24 brings together industry, academia, and nonprofit organizations as well
25 as federal, state, and local officials to advocate on behalf of aerospace;
26 and the Colorado Space Business Roundtable that brings together
27 companies and organizations of all sizes to network and advance
28 aerospace in Colorado; and

29 WHEREAS, Colorado is also fortunate to have world-renowned
30 institutions such as the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum
31 and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, which inspires people of
32 all ages with exhibits and activities relating to space and promotes the
33 study of academics in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and
34 math; and

35 WHEREAS, Colorado offers aerospace companies one of the
36 country's most educated workforces and a dynamic atmosphere for

1 business growth; now, therefore,

2 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-ninth General Assembly*
3 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

4 (1) That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly,
5 strongly urge and request the executive and legislative branches of the
6 government of the United States of America to take action to preserve and
7 enhance United States leadership in space, to spur innovation, and to
8 ensure our continued national and economic security by preserving and
9 increasing funding for space exploration and activities, including
10 regaining the ability of the United States to deliver persons and cargo to
11 low-earth orbit by 2015 and committing to sending persons to
12 destinations such as the moon, Lagrange points, asteroids, and Mars
13 within this decade or as soon as technologically possible;

14 (2) That we recognize and appreciate the contributions of
15 Colorado's aerospace companies, organizations, universities, colleges, and
16 national research laboratories for their scientific discoveries and
17 technological innovations as well as for their commitment to securing the
18 economic and national security of the United States;

19 (3) That we express our most sincere and deepest appreciation to
20 the men and women working in and supporting military and civilian
21 aerospace companies and organizations in Colorado; and

22 (4) That we hereby designate March 25, 2013, as "Colorado
23 Aerospace Day".

24 *Be It Further Resolved,* That a copy of this Joint Resolution be
25 sent to President Barack Obama; House Speaker John Boehner; House
26 Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi; Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid;
27 Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell; Senator Mark Udall; Senator
28 Michael Bennet; Congresswoman Diana DeGette; Congressman Jared
29 Polis; Congressman Scott Tipton; Congressman Cory Gardner;
30 Congressman Doug Lamborn; Congressman Mike Coffman;
31 Congressman Ed Perlmutter; NASA Administrator Charles F. Bolden, Jr.;
32 NASA Deputy Administrator, Lori B. Garver; FAA Associate
33 Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation, Dr. George C.
34 Nield; Governor John Hickenlooper; Lieutenant Governor Joe Garcia;
35 The Adjutant General for Colorado, Major General H. Michael Edwards,
36 Colorado National Guard; Mr. Charles Huettner, Executive Director,

1 Aerospace States Association; Mr. Elliott Pulham, Chief Executive
2 Officer, Space Foundation; Major General (retired) Andy Love,
3 Co-Chair, Colorado Space Coalition; Mr. Tom Marsh, Co-Chair,
4 Colorado Space Coalition; Mr. Edgar Johansson, President and CEO,
5 Colorado Space Business Roundtable; and Ms. Stacey DeFore, Chair,
6 Colorado Space Business Roundtable.