Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 20, 2026

The Honorable Jared Isaacman, Chair
Presidential Commission on the United States Space Academy
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
300 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20546

Dear Administrator Isaacman:

We write in strong support of the State of Indiana's response to NASA's Request for Information regarding the establishment of the United States Space Academy.

American leadership in space is critical to our national security. As our adversaries invest in capabilities intended to challenge the United States, we must ensure our country has the scientists, engineers, and military and civilian leaders necessary to maintain our advantage. President Trump's vision for the United States Space Academy recognizes that our future success in space will depend as much on developing talented Americans as it will on advancing new technologies.

Indiana has a long history of contributing to America's space program, from the earliest days of NASA through today's missions. Our state is home to leading research universities, major defense installations, advanced manufacturers, and companies developing technologies important to our national security.

We are particularly encouraged by the leadership and collaboration among Indiana University, Purdue University, the University of Notre Dame, and Ivy Tech Community College. These institutions have come together to address the Academy's immediate academic needs while also developing an additional approach to producing more of the highly skilled Americans NASA and the Department of War will need in the years ahead. This partnership demonstrates Indiana's ability to bring together its academic resources to address a national challenge. All of these institutions are led by Presidents who support their institutions' engagement with our national security and defense apparatus through research and workforce development. Particularly noteworthy, Purdue University announced this month that Retired Lt. Gen. Jay B. Silveria will be the next President of the University. His past role as Superintendent of the US Air Force Academy will bring familiarity to the role of the Academy, its operations, and end goals.

Indiana's response also identifies multiple locations capable of supporting the Academy and its long-term growth. Each offers access to academic, military, research, and industry assets that can contribute to the Academy's success.

As Indiana's United States Senators, we have worked closely with Governor Braun, our congressional delegation, and leaders across the state to strengthen Indiana's role in our national defense. Our work to advance unmanned systems, military testing, microelectronics, and defense

manufacturing reflects a shared commitment to ensuring Indiana continues to contribute to America's military readiness and technological superiority. The United States Space Academy would build on that work while helping prepare the next generation of Americans to serve our country.

We strongly support Indiana's response and respectfully urge you to give it full and fair consideration. We stand ready to work with NASA, the Administration, and our state partners to support this important national mission.

Sincerely,



Todd Young
United States Senator



Jim Banks
United States Senator