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Ohio Senate

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Senate Concurrent Resolution 15
Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee
Chairman McColley
Sponsor Testimony (Written) – Senator Bob Hackett
June 24, 2020

Thank you Chairman McColley, Vice Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee for allowing me to bring Senate Concurrent Resolution 15 before you today. SCR 15 will urge the United States government to select Ohio to host the permanent headquarters of the United States Space Command.

The United States Space Command (USSPACECOM) is the newest of the eleven unified commands in the Department of Defense. USSPACECOM increases the ability of the Joint Force to project power and influence, reduces decision timelines for space operations, and brings focused attention to defending U.S. interests in space. Establishing USSPACECOM is a critical step in accelerating the ability of the Joint Force to defend vital national interests and deter adversaries.

Ohio meets all three of the basic requirements:

- The location must be within one of the 150 largest metropolitan statistical areas in the U.S., based on 2019 population estimates from the Census Bureau.
- The location must be within 25 miles or less of a military base.
- The location must have a livability index score of at least 50 points out of 100, based on statistics kept by AARP's Public Policy Institute.

To go along with these requirements, Ohio is also home to WPAFB, NASIC, NGRC, NGRC Lewis Field and Plumbrook, Springfield Air National Guard and AFIT. WPAFB is also home to hundreds of space-related jobs.

Over the past 2 years, we have done a lot for military, military families and veterans. Including, occupational reciprocity, in-state college tuition, Medicaid Waivers, spousal unemployment compensation, disabled veteran's severance pay income exemption. Having the Space Command in Ohio could bring as many as 1,400 new jobs to the state.

Passage of the Resolution will demonstrate Ohio's desire, capabilities, resources and support to fulfill the Space Command Mission. Once again, Chairman McColley, Vice Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee thank you for the opportunity to bring S.C.R 15 before you.