

Senate Resolution 68 Proponent Testimony Terry Donelon, Senior Director, Government Advocacy Greater Cleveland Partnership April 1, 2025

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and members of the Senate General Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to express our organization's support for Senate Resolution 68 encouraging the Trump Administration to relocate NASA Headquarters to the State of Ohio.

My name is Terry Donelon and I have the pleasure of serving as Senior Director of Government Advocacy for the Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP) – the largest metropolitan chamber of commerce in the nation – serving more than 12,000 member companies across Northeast Ohio.

For decades, GCP has worked directly to support and advocate for Cleveland's own NASA Glenn Research Center – one of the nation's leading innovators in aeronautics, nuclear power, and space technology. The technology being developed by NASA Glenn – at both the Lewis Field campus next to Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, as well as the Armstrong Test Facility located in Sandusky – will be responsible for harnessing the abundance of power required to propel American astronauts far beyond the Moon to Mars.

We strongly believe now is the right moment and best opportunity to pursue this bold endeavor. That is why GCP, along with every major business organization from across Ohio, has joined together in petitioning the Trump Administration to bring NASA HQ to Ohio – the beating heart of America's aerospace corridor. (business community letter attached)

Ohio sits in a strategically vital location at the intersection of our great nation with its close proximity to critical national defense installations, an array of cutting-edge research laboratories, a wide range of highly distinguished science & engineering programs, a statewide network of global business leaders in aerospace innovation, and is home to the Midwest Microelectronics Consortium (MMEC) dedicated to the acceleration of microelectronics technologies and the semiconductor revolution.

As the largest supplier to Boeing & Airbus – and with over 170 individual NASA suppliers residing in-state – Ohio is already well-integrated in the aerospace manufacturing pipeline and offers limitless opportunities to streamline & economize the nation's mission-critical development of "Made in America" space exploration products. Additionally, Ohio proves vastly more competitive than other potential NASA HQ relocation sites when comparing cost-of-living, operational expenses, and labor costs.

Lastly, we wish to thank Senator Roegner for her leadership on this issue which stands to benefit all of Ohio. Together, we are demonstrating the ability of Ohio's public and private sectors to speak with one unified voice to reach new heights for the people we are privileged to serve.

We are grateful to this committee for its work in enhancing Ohio's aerospace economy by supporting this effort to bring NASA HQ to Ohio. Please do not hesitate to reach out to <u>tdonelon@greatercle.com</u> with any questions you may have.

March 17, 2025

The Honorable J.D. Vance Vice President of the United States The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Jared Isaacman Administrator Designate National Aeronautics and Space Administration 300 Hidden Figures Way, SW Washington, DC 20546

Re: Achieving President Trump's Agenda for Space Dominance & Government Cost Efficiency by Relocating NASA Headquarters from Washington, D.C. to the State of Ohio

Dear Vice President Vance and Administrator Designate Isaacman,

As civic and business leaders from across the State of Ohio, we write in strong support of the bipartisan effort championed by Senator Jon Husted and Congressman Max Miller to relocate NASA Headquarters from the D.C. Beltway to **the Buckeye State – the heart of the American Midwest & the birthplace of aviation.** Whether it be the unyielding ingenuity of the Wright Brothers, the adventurous courage of Neil Amstrong, or the bold sacrifice of John Glenn – for whom Cleveland's NASA Glenn Research Center is dedicated – Ohio's long history of aerospace and aviation breakthroughs is just as bright as our state's future in space exploration & discovery.

As the largest supplier to Boeing & Airbus – and with over 170 individual NASA suppliers residing instate – Ohio is already well-integrated in the aerospace manufacturing pipeline and offers limitless opportunities to streamline & economize the nation's mission-critical development of "Made in America" space exploration products. In addition to serving as **the beating heart of America's aerospace corridor**, Ohio proves vastly more competitive than other potential relocation sites when comparing cost-of-living, operational expenses, and labor costs.

Ohio sits in a strategically vital location at the intersection of our great nation with its close proximity to critical national defense installations, an array of cutting-edge research laboratories, a wide range of highly distinguished science & engineering programs, a statewide network of global business leaders in aerospace innovation, and is home to the Midwest Microelectronics Consortium (MMEC) dedicated to the acceleration of microelectronics technologies and the semiconductor revolution.

As previously mentioned, Cleveland is proud to be the home of NASA's Glenn Research Center – one of the nation's leading innovators in aeronautics, nuclear power, and space technology. The technology being developed at NASA Glenn today will be responsible for harnessing the abundance of power required to propel American astronauts far beyond the Moon to Mars. If Mars is our nation's unifying goal, Ohio is where that journey begins.

Additionally, it is important to consider the critical defense infrastructure throughout Ohio that supports much of the work NASA is engaged in. Of great importance is the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) in Dayton, Ohio. AFRL is the primary scientific

research and development center for the Department of the Air Force, playing an integral role in the discovery, development, and integration of warfighting technologies for our air, space, and cyberspace forces. WPAFB also houses the National Air & Space Intelligence Center (NASIC) and the National Space Intelligence Center (NSIC), known as "Delta 18"–DoD's primary source for space intelligence and the Space Force's service intelligence center to "outwit, outreach, and win in the space domain."

It is often said that **"the road to the Moon and Mars runs straight through Ohio."** As community leaders from across our great state, we are confident that Ohio is prepared to meet this moment. Ohio has the tools, the workforce, and the wherewithal to advance NASA's core mission and long-term objectives. We stand ready to assist President Trump and his Cabinet in pursuing America's mission to the next frontier. To the Moon, Mars, and beyond.

Sincerely,



Cc: Hon. Janet Petro, Acting Administrator, NASA