



**State Representative Rick Perales**  
**HCR 32 – Sponsor Testimony**  
**Economic Workforce & Development Committee**  
**November 18, 2020**

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Chairman Zeltwanger, Vice Chair Powell, Ranking Member Sobbecki, and members of the House Economic and Workforce Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 32. This resolution would urge the United States Government to select Ohio as headquarters of the U.S. Space Command. I am happy to be joined today by Senator Hackett as he provides testimony for a similar resolution from the Ohio Senate, SCR 15.

On August 29, 2019, the United States Space Command was activated as the eleventh Unified Combatant Command. The purpose of this new, pivotal command is to bring focused attention to defending U.S. interests in space. On May 14, 2020, the Department of the Air Force invited Governors to nominate candidates to host the permanent headquarters of the United State Space Command. When the United State Space Command becomes fully established, it is estimated to employ 1400 military and civilian personnel at its headquarters. This would be huge for Ohio's economy. We must do everything in our power to convey the attractiveness of Ohio for this new headquarters. This is not hard to convey, given our historic role in launching the world into the air age of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

First, my district is home to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, which hosts the National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC), the Department of Defense's primary source for space threat analysis. Secondly, the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) is also headquartered in Ohio and leads the Department of Defense in the discovery, development, and integration of warfighting technologies for our space forces. Thirdly, Ohio's NASA Glenn Research Center currently designs and develops innovative technology to advance NASA's missions in aeronautics and space exploration. Fourth, the Springfield Air National Guard Base in Ohio is currently home to the 178<sup>th</sup> Wing, including the 178<sup>th</sup> Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group comprising of squadrons supporting the National Air and Space Intelligence Center's space intelligence and analysis mission. Finally, the Air Force Institute of Technology in Ohio includes the Center for Space Research and Assurance along with the School of Strategic Force Studies. The Air Force Institute of Technology is the center for the Department of Defense's program related to advanced studies and education. This institute will serve future Space Force graduates.

There are many exciting developments in the space industry occurring right here in Ohio. Our universities excel in space-related research including areas relating to power and propulsion,

communications, navigation, and many others. Our space industry is also anchored with commercial pioneers in space exploration and defense technology.

Ohio has an unparalleled historical link with pioneers of aerospace and space technology, beginning with the Wright Brothers and George W. Lewis and including Neil Armstrong, John Glenn, Jim Lovell, Judith Resnick and more than 20 other NASA astronauts. By harnessing our inherent advantage over other states in attracting U.S. Space Command Headquarters to locate here in Ohio, we are setting up our state's economy for continued success in the future. Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 32. I would be more than happy to answer any questions members of the committee may have.