

**First Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. R15-0963.01 Gwynne Middleton x4340

**SJR15-019**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 15-019**

101      **CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 23, 2015, AS "COLORADO**  
102                    **AEROSPACE DAY" .**

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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, Colorado is the number one aerospace state in the  
5            country in terms of per-capita employment and the third largest aerospace  
6            economy in the United States in terms of total numbers -- ranking only  
7            behind California and Florida; and

8            WHEREAS, 163,000 Coloradans are employed in space-related  
9            jobs, generating approximately \$3.2 billion in annual payroll; 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, Colorado is home to the nation's top aerospace  
2 companies, including Ball Aerospace, Boeing, Exelis, Lockheed Martin  
3 Space Systems, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, Sierra Nevada  
4 Corporation, and United Launch Alliance, with close to 500 other  
5 space-related companies providing aerospace products and services,  
6 including spacecraft, launch vehicles, satellites, components, software,  
7 sensors, and navigation operations; and

8           WHEREAS, Many Colorado companies have made significant  
9 contributions to NASA's Orion Spacecraft, such as Littleton-based  
10 Lockheed Martin's role in the spacecraft's design and engineering as well  
11 as in its components and heat shield creation, Broomfield-based Ball  
12 Aerospace's role in its flight camera development, and Centennial-based  
13 United Launch Alliance's launch of the Delta IV Heavy Rocket for its  
14 historic unmanned Exploration Flight Test 1, known as EFT-1, on  
15 December 5, 2014; and

16           WHEREAS, EFT-1 was the first flight of a human-rated spacecraft  
17 in over 40 years and took Orion to an altitude of 3,600 miles above the  
18 Earth's surface, more than 15 times farther than the International Space  
19 Station; reentered the atmosphere at speeds of over 20,000 miles per hour;  
20 reached temperatures of 4,000 degrees Fahrenheit; and was viewed at  
21 Cape Canaveral by a group of more than 400 elected officials, business  
22 leaders, citizens from Colorado, and tens of thousands more from across  
23 the nation and around the world; and

24           WHEREAS, Colorado is a strategic location for national space  
25 activity, with four key military commands -- the United States Air Force  
26 Space Command, the United States Army's 1st Space Brigade, the United  
27 States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), and the North American  
28 Aerospace Defense (NORAD) -- and three space-related United States  
29 Air Force bases -- Buckley, Peterson, and Schriever; and

30           WHEREAS, Two organizations are instrumental to Colorado's  
31 prominence in aerospace -- the Colorado Space Coalition (CSC), a group  
32 of industry stakeholders working to further grow Colorado as a center of  
33 excellence for aerospace that includes members from space companies,  
34 military leaders, academic organizations, research centers, and economic  
35 development groups that promote Colorado's significant space assets and  
36 advance legislation vital to industry growth and success -- and the  
37 Colorado Space Business Roundtable (CSBR), which brings together  
38 aerospace stakeholders from industry, government, and academia for

1 roundtable discussions and business development and encourages  
2 grassroots citizen participation in aerospace issues through the Colorado  
3 Chapter of Citizens for Space Exploration; and

4 WHEREAS, The CSBR and CSC have conducted business  
5 development road trips around the state of Colorado over the past few  
6 years in partnership with aerospace organizations, companies, academia,  
7 the Colorado Competitive Council, Action 22, CLUB 20, and Progressive  
8 15 in order to find suppliers and subcontractors for aerospace projects and  
9 to promote aerospace in rural Colorado and Science, Technology,  
10 Engineering, and Math (STEM) in Colorado schools, and, during these  
11 road trips, have discovered remarkable aerospace innovation, such as the  
12 Durango Aerospace Design Team who placed first in NASA's National  
13 Space Settlement Design Competition, securing themselves an invitation  
14 to the World Design Finals where they took first place in the world and  
15 won their sixth world championship title; and

16 WHEREAS, Colorado's universities, including the University of  
17 Colorado at Boulder (CU-Boulder), University of Colorado at Colorado  
18 Springs, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University,  
19 University of Denver, and Colorado Mesa University, are among the  
20 world's best for aerospace-related degrees and offer aerospace companies  
21 one of the country's most-educated workforces; and

22 WHEREAS, CU-Boulder is producing Colorado's aerospace  
23 leaders, with graduates serving as senior executives, engineers, project  
24 managers, and program managers in aerospace-related industries  
25 throughout the state, the nation, and the world; and

26 WHEREAS, CU-Boulder is also the number one NASA-funded  
27 public university in the United States, with over a dozen aerospace-related  
28 academic units and a variety of related programs on campus that support  
29 the aerospace industry, the business of aerospace, space science and  
30 research, the application of aerospace technology, and research to solving  
31 earth-bound challenges; has a top-ten graduate program in aerospace  
32 engineering; is home to the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space  
33 Physics, which is the only research institute in the world to send missions  
34 to all eight planets and Pluto; and is the originator of the MAVEN Mars  
35 mission; and

36 WHEREAS, CU-Boulder counts among its legacy 18 astronauts  
37 and conducts millions of dollars in world-class, aerospace-related

1 research annually, resulting in new scientific discoveries and  
2 technologies; and

3 WHEREAS, Metropolitan State University of Denver is working  
4 to fill a shortage of more than 500,000 unfilled advanced manufacturing  
5 jobs across the country in the area of aviation and aerospace by partnering  
6 with industry and government to develop its Aerospace and Engineering  
7 Sciences program that will integrate the study of aviation and aerospace  
8 science; industrial design; civil, mechanical, and electrical engineering  
9 technology; computer science and computer information systems; and  
10 business management, and the programs will be housed in a new  
11 state-of-the-art Aerospace and Engineering Sciences building, providing  
12 students with the technology and labs necessary to give them a highly  
13 experiential, relevant education; and

14 WHEREAS, The Fort Lewis College Physics and Engineering  
15 program, with its cutting-edge research and curriculum supported by  
16 multiple university and industry partners, has been growing at 35% per  
17 year and will be housed in a new and state-of-the-art Geosciences,  
18 Physics, and Engineering building beginning in fall 2016; and

19 WHEREAS, This academic program enables Fort Lewis College  
20 to contribute the scientists and engineers with aerospace-related technical  
21 skills, particularly in the areas of robotics and electromechanical systems,  
22 necessary to power economic development for aerospace and other  
23 industries throughout the region and state; and

24 WHEREAS, The O'Neil Group Company plans to create an  
25 innovation district in downtown Colorado Springs that will create an  
26 environment where private-sector companies will collaborate with  
27 public-sector entities to spur workforce development, education, and  
28 startups to create long-lasting jobs in the community; now, therefore,

29 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventieth General Assembly*  
30 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

31 (1) That we strongly urge and request the Executive and  
32 Legislative Branches of the United States government to take action to  
33 preserve and enhance United States leadership in space, to spur  
34 innovation, and to ensure our continued national and economic security  
35 by preserving and increasing funding for space exploration and activities,  
36 including regaining the ability of the United States to deliver persons and

1 cargo to low-Earth orbit by 2018 and committing to send persons to  
2 destinations such as the Moon, Lagrange points, asteroids, and Mars  
3 within this decade or as soon as technologically possible;

4 (2) That we recognize and appreciate Colorado's space and  
5 aerospace companies and organizations;

6 (3) That we recognize and appreciate the contributions of  
7 Colorado's universities, colleges, and national research laboratories to the  
8 space and aerospace industries;

9 (4) That we express our most sincere and deepest appreciation to  
10 the men and women working in and supporting military and civilian  
11 aerospace companies and organizations in Colorado; and

12 (5) That we hereby declare March 23, 2015, to be "Colorado  
13 Aerospace Day".

14 *Be It Further Resolved*, That a copy of this Joint Resolution be  
15 sent to President Barack Obama; Speaker John Boehner; House Minority  
16 Leader Nancy Pelosi; Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell; Senate  
17 Minority Leader Harry Reid; Senator Cory Gardner; Senator Michael  
18 Bennet; Congresswoman Diana DeGette; Congressman Jared Polis;  
19 Congressman Scott Tipton; Congressman Ken Buck; Congressman Doug  
20 Lamborn; Congressman Mike Coffman; Congressman Ed Perlmutter;  
21 Charles F. Bolden, Jr., NASA Administrator; Dava Newman, NASA  
22 Deputy Administrator; Mr. Michael P. Huerta, Federal Aviation  
23 Administration Administrator; Dr. George C. Nield, Associate  
24 Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation at the Federal  
25 Aviation Administration; Governor John Hickenlooper; Lieutenant  
26 Governor Joe Garcia; Major General H. Michael Edwards, the Adjutant  
27 General, Colorado National Guard; General John Hyten, Air Force Space  
28 Commander; Colonel Dan Wright, USAF, Commander Aerospace Data  
29 Facility-Colorado; Betty Sapp, Director, National Reconnaissance Office;  
30 Charles Huettner, Executive Director, Aerospace States Association;  
31 Elliott Pulham, Chief Executive Officer, Space Foundation; Major  
32 General (Retired) Andy Love, Co-Chair, Colorado Space Coalition; Tom  
33 Marsh, Co-Chair, Colorado Space Coalition; Edgar Johansson, President  
34 and CEO, Colorado Space Business Roundtable; Frank Backes, Chair,  
35 Colorado Space Business Roundtable; and Stacey DeFore, Chair,  
36 Colorado Citizens for Space Exploration.