

AUGUST PFLUGER
11TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

CHAIRMAN OF
THE COUNTERTERRORISM, LAW
ENFORCEMENT, &
INTELLIGENCE SUBCOMMITTEE
DEPUTY WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
& COMMERCE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY

April 14, 2023

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairwoman
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

Thank you for providing Members the opportunity to share our priorities for the 118th Congress. As a native West Texan and U.S. Air Force Veteran, I understand the security implications of being a step behind our adversaries and the potential rural America may offer in closing that gap. As the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee begins to work on the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) reauthorization, I urge the Committee to consider streamlined, consistent funding for rural spaceports, and the establishment of a hypersonic corridor between Midland Spaceport and Spaceport America.

The Midland International Air and Space Port Business Park is the first commercial spaceport co-located with an FAA Part 139 commercial airport. This spaceport, an FAA-approved Commercial Space Launch and Re-Entry Site is ideal for companies producing, testing, and launching satellites and reusable vehicles. Without streamlined, consistent funding, developing spaceports, like Midland, are unable to proactively plan for future projects. For spaceports to effectively participate in the rapidly growing industry, it is imperative they have certainty in funding levels.

Due to the location of the Midland Spaceport in the Permian Basin of west Texas, a set of airspace corridors between Midland International Air and Space Port and Spaceport America would capitalize on opportunities for flight research, development, and testing of air and spacecraft. The feasibility and viability of having these point-to-point, unique airspace corridors have been tested and will allow operations for space, hypersonic, and supersonic vehicles.

The Midland Spaceport is contributing to the United States' hypersonic defense and commercial leadership by developing advancements to enhance U.S. military and commercial hypersonic capabilities. These advancements are critical to maintaining our strategic competition with China, Russia, and other adversaries whose hypersonic and sub/orbital group and air research capabilities are progressing rapidly.

Additionally, space companies that establish themselves at spaceports can generate thousands of high-paying jobs and education opportunities for rural Americans. Not only will jobs in traditional sectors like fabrication, construction, and operations be made available, spaceports have the potential to offer new, innovative career paths that currently do not exist. Emboldening spaceports in our rural regions will spur opportunities will have significant economic benefits across the state and throughout the nation.

Emerging technologies in both terrestrial and space applications are poised to change our world dramatically in the coming decades. Spaceports around the country, including west Texas, are eager to do their part in providing a strategic advantage to the future and security of our nation. I appreciate your

consideration of these requests to streamline funding to rural spaceports and establish a hypersonic corridor between Midland Spaceport and Spaceport America. I look forward to working with you in future endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "August Pfluger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "August" and the last name "Pfluger" clearly distinguishable.

August Pfluger
Member of Congress