

1 *NLGA – For Consideration:*

2 **NLGA Consensus Resolution on Spaceports for Economic Growth**

3 **WHEREAS**, U.S. spaceports have a critical role in the growing global commercial space
4 transportation industry, with the Federal Aviation Administration listing 20 spaceports and
5 launch/reentry sites in nine different states,¹ and

6 **WHEREAS**, this network of spaceports serves as a critical driver of the \$241 billion U.S. space
7 economy that supports 373,000 jobs,² because without access to space, there is no space
8 economy, and

9 **WHEREAS**, spaceports take many forms, including horizontal, vertical, and ocean-based
10 platforms, each supporting a broad range of activities such as launch, downmass return,
11 vehicle testing, payload integration, manufacturing, and ground station operations,³ and

12 **WHEREAS**, spaceports can serve as more than launch sites, facilitating economic growth as
13 hubs of innovation, commerce, and exploration that connect communities to the emerging
14 space economy, and

15 **WHEREAS**, spaceports have a direct and indirect impact on the local and state economies
16 where they are located, directly impacting related industries including aerospace
17 manufacturing, logistics, vehicle assembly, payload production, ground services, and satellite
18 support, and

19 **WHEREAS**, the ecosystem surrounding a spaceport can be far-reaching, with business parks
20 and specialized industrial zones often emerging nearby, enabling partnerships among research
21 institutions, startups, and major contractors, and

22 **WHEREAS**, workforce attraction and retention can be powerful benefits of spaceport
23 development, as educational programs, training centers, and high-skill employers expand
24 around a spaceport, and

25 **WHEREAS**, spaceports can create a cycle of opportunity to keep talent in place, attract new
26 residents, and strengthen civic infrastructure, with schools, medical facilities, housing, and
27 recreational services growing to support the population and encouraging innovation and
28 prosperity, and

29 **WHEREAS**, many spaceports also function as centers for education, training, and innovation,
30 hosting incubators, accelerators, and analog missions where new technologies are tested in
31 realistic environments, fostering collaboration among universities, government agencies, and
32 private enterprises, and

33 **WHEREAS**, the number of space launches originating from the United States – by far the
34 global leader – has increased exponentially in recent years as launch costs have gone down,
35 commercial launch systems have matured, and reusable rockets have proven reliable,⁴ and

¹ https://www.faa.gov/space/spaceports_by_state

² <https://www.bea.gov/data/special-topics/space-economy>

³ <https://www.globalspaceportalliance.com/value-of-a-spaceport-to-the-local-economy/>

⁴ <https://aerospace.org/article/space-futures-within-range-how-aerospace-supports-us-spaceport-modernization>

36 **WHEREAS**, in 2025, the U.S. conducted nearly 200 total orbital launches – a 9-fold increase
37 from 10 years prior – and multiple launch forecasts project this number to more than double
38 by 2030,⁵ and

39 **WHEREAS**, experts note that a primary risk to America’s spaceports is sharply increasing
40 demand outpacing spaceport capacity, putting intense strain on a network already in need of
41 additional resources and significant upgrades,⁶ and

42 **WHEREAS**, a growing number of states are taking proactive steps to marshal their public and
43 private sectors and academia to grow the commercial space industry, offering incentives to
44 encourage new partnerships, attract startups, and identify dual-use technologies to expand
45 their regional and national space footprint,⁷ and

46 **WHEREAS**, states and territories can support the development of spaceports as strategic
47 economic development assets in a competitive landscape, in part by balancing regulation,
48 community impact and long-term vision, and

49 **WHEREAS**, lieutenant governors are uniquely positioned to lead on the exploration and
50 development of spaceports and other critical assets in support of the U.S. space economy.

51 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Lieutenant Governors Association
52 (NLGA) encourages states and territories to explore the development of spaceports as
53 economic growth engines, innovation centers, and anchors for investment, partnerships,
54 workforce development, and strong communities.

55 ADOPTED, this day, the ___ of July, 2026.

56 Co-Sponsors: *Pending*

57

58 *Proposed for the docket by:* Louisiana Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser

⁵ <https://aerospace.org/article/space-futures-within-range-how-aerospace-supports-us-spaceport-modernization>

⁶ <https://spacenews.com/faa-forecasts-surgingly-commercial-launch-activity/>

⁷ <https://aerospaceamerica.aiaa.org/institute/regional-rivalries-national-imperative-state-governments-pick-up-the-pace-in-space-race/>