



National Lieutenant Governors Association

NLGA Consensus Resolution on Spaceports for Economic Growth

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

54 **ADOPTED**, this day, the 23rd of July, 2026.

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

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

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

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



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- 55 Co-Sponsors: *Indiana Lt. Governor Micah Beckwith, Louisiana Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser*
- 56 *Proposed for the docket by:* Louisiana Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser