

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 1**

Introduced by Blood, 3; Aguilar, 35; Albrecht, 17; Arch, 14; Bostar, 29; Bostelman, 23; Brandt, 32; Brewer, 43; Cavanaugh, J., 9; Cavanaugh, M., 6; Clements, 2; Day, 49; DeBoer, 10; Dorn, 30; Erdman, 47; Flood, 19; Friesen, 34; Geist, 25; Gragert, 40; Groene, 42; Halloran, 33; Hansen, B., 16; Hansen, M., 26; Hilgers, 21; Hilkemann, 4; Hughes, 44; Hunt, 8; Kolterman, 24; Lathrop, 12; Lindstrom, 18; Linehan, 39; Lowe, 37; McCollister, 20; McDonnell, 5; McKinney, 11; Morfeld, 46; Moser, 22; Murman, 38; Pahls, 31; Pansing Brooks, 28; Sanders, 45; Slama, 1; Stinner, 48; Vargas, 7; Walz, 15; Wayne, 13; Williams, 36; Wishart, 27.

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense recently reestablished the United States Space Command as the eleventh unified combatant command of the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the United States Air Force requested that state and community leaders nominate military locations to host the United States Space Command headquarters; and

WHEREAS, the city of Bellevue, Nebraska, on behalf of community, state, and regional leaders and officials and in conjunction with support from local military leaders, nominated Offutt Air Force Base to be the location for the United States Space Command headquarters; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts endorsed the application recommending Offutt Air Force Base for the honor of becoming the permanent host for the United States Space Command headquarters; and

WHEREAS, Offutt Air Force Base and the neighbouring Bellevue and Omaha communities received top scores on the basing criteria established by the United States Air Force including: proximity to mutually supporting space entities; an available qualified workforce; infrastructure and facility capacity; high bandwidth communications infrastructure; enhanced security; energy resilience; cost efficiencies; and community support; and

WHEREAS, Offutt Air Force Base is among six sites being considered by the Air Force to host the United States Space Command headquarters; and

WHEREAS, Offutt Air Force Base is the home for global missions of national consequence, the joint, interagency, coalition, Guard, and Reserve presence would complement the needs of the United States Space Command; and

WHEREAS, several Offutt Air Force Base units of interest include the 55th Wing, which provides dominant worldwide reconnaissance, real-time intelligence, command and control, and information warfare; the 595th Command and Control Group supporting strategic nuclear deterrence; the Air Force's only weather wing; and the newly formed Marine Corps Forces Space Command; and

WHEREAS, the largest tenant on Offutt Air Force Base is a global warfighting combatant command, the United States Strategic Command, which has a mission set that combines the United States legacy nuclear command and control mission with responsibility for space operations, global strike, and global missile defense to deter strategic attacks and employ forces, as directed, to guarantee the security of our nation and our allies; and

WHEREAS, the United States Strategic Command oversees and manages the Nuclear Command, Control, and Communications Enterprise Center; and the United States Space Command is a key member of the Nuclear Command, Control, and Communications Enterprise Stakeholder Council; and

WHEREAS, for seventeen years, from 2002 to 2019, America's military space mission headquartered at Offutt Air Force Base as part of the United States Strategic Command mission set; and

WHEREAS, the history of hosting the United States Strategic Command and units that mutually support joint combatant commands serves as an excellent foundation for Offutt Air Force Base to create additional synergies and efficiencies; and

WHEREAS, community support for military missions; the military men, women, and families living and working at Offutt Air Force Base; and veterans living in the surrounding communities began in the 1940s and support for these groups remains unsurpassed to this day; and

WHEREAS, creative public-private partnerships executed in the Omaha metropolitan area by economic leaders are some of the largest and most

efficient available, as evidenced by the business community's investment in the new Omaha Veterans Affairs Medical Center which opened in 2020 and helped save taxpayers thirty-four million dollars, equating to twenty-eight percent of the project's cost; and

WHEREAS, education will be a key element in providing workforce talent development and acquisition as the United States Space Command matures; and

WHEREAS, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education in Nebraska is highly rated and stands ready to continue delivering opportunities that support professionals in the space and defense industries and their families; and

WHEREAS, the National Strategic Research Institute at the University of Nebraska is one of fourteen University Affiliated Research Center laboratories affiliated with the Department of Defense and the only one sponsored by a combatant command, the United States Strategic Command; and

WHEREAS, the University of Nebraska College of Law is the only law college in the nation to offer an expansive space, cyber, and telecommunications law curriculum which includes a doctoral-level J.S. D. degree, an LL.M. degree, a concentrated program of study for J.D. students, and an executive certificate program for practicing attorneys; and

WHEREAS, the quality of life in the cities of Bellevue and Omaha ranked higher than the other finalists in the AARP Livability Index and in the Air Force assessment titled, "Support of Military Families - 2019"; and

WHEREAS, the cities of Bellevue and Omaha offer a diversified economy and are home to five Fortune 500 companies; and

WHEREAS, the region has low unemployment and offers good wages, affordable housing, a low cost of living, seamless access to transportation, and easy commuting; and

WHEREAS, the cities of Bellevue and Omaha have proven to be an ideal home for military personnel, civilians, and their families; and

WHEREAS, the leaders of our community are committed to ensuring ample housing, childcare, community services, and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature continues its strong

relationship with the Department of Defense's Military Community and Family Policy office in a constant effort to create laws that support the military personnel stationed at Offutt Air Force Base and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Bellevue and Omaha communities would welcome the additional military and civilian personnel, contractors, and families associated with the United States Space Command; and

WHEREAS, basing the headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base would enhance the economy of the region by adding approximately one thousand four hundred new jobs; and

WHEREAS, reestablishing the United States Space Command headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base would require military construction improvements, which would create construction and other support jobs, further increasing the economic benefit to the region; and

WHEREAS, there is widespread bipartisan support for hosting the United States Space Command Headquarters from federal, state, and community leaders who recognize the importance of returning the space mission to Offutt Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, the space mission is vital to our Nation's security, prosperity, and scientific advancement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Nebraska Legislature does hereby express enthusiastic support for the United States Air Force to reestablish the United States Space Command headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha, Nebraska.

2. That the Clerk of the Legislature prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, each member of Nebraska's congressional delegation, the Secretary of the Air Force, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Secretary of Defense.