

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2014

Dr. George C. Nield  
Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation  
Federal Aviation Administration  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Dr. Nield:


We write to express our strong support for Colorado's efforts to receive a spaceport operator license for Front Range Airport. As the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) works with Front Range Airport on its spaceport certification, we wish to highlight Colorado's leadership in space research and development and demonstrate the broad support from the community.

Aerospace and aviation are significant economic drivers in Colorado. Colorado's aerospace industry currently employs 66,000 highly-skilled workers and generates over \$16 billion of annual economic activity. This is due in part to the excellent institutions of higher learning in Colorado, which have some of the highest ranking aerospace engineering programs in the country and consistently top the list of high-tech graduates each year. The state is also home to numerous military space operations and has one of the highest concentrations of Federal science and research labs in the nation. By leveraging all of this experience and expertise in the aerospace sector, Colorado is well-positioned to play a key role in the continued development of private commercial space transportation.

A key component of this narrative is Front Range Airport. Located on 4,000 acres of land and surrounded by 6,000 acres of privately owned industrial property, Front Range is remote yet only six miles from Denver International Airport (DIA). These natural advantages, combined with the resources available from Colorado's aerospace community, have Front Range Airport well-situated as a key cog in the effort to further develop commercial space transportation in Colorado. The approval of Front Range Airport's spaceport operations license has critical economic importance not only to Colorado and to its aerospace industry, but to the larger effort to establish private commercial space transportation across the country.

It is clear that Colorado, with its extensive assets, will make an excellent spaceport state. We lend our support to this proposal without any hesitation. Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to your response. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any additional information pertaining to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress



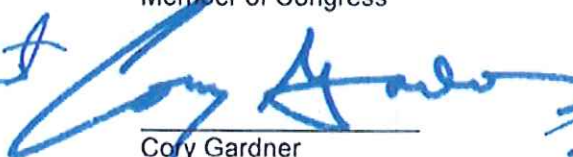
Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress



Mark Udall  
United States Senator



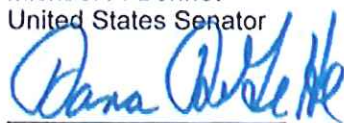
Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Cory Gardner  
Member of Congress



Scott R. Tipton  
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Jared Polis  
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress