



**Board of County Commissioners**  
Office of the County Administrator  
P.O. Box 99 / 200 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Woodbine, Georgia 31569

Contact: John Simpson  
678-694-8266 (office)  
703-201-5683 (cell)  
[jsimpson@capitolresourcesllc.com](mailto:jsimpson@capitolresourcesllc.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Substantial Momentum for Spaceport Camden as Draft EIS Comment Period Closes**

**WOODBINE, GEORGIA – June 20, 2018** – The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) formally closed the comment period on the Spaceport Camden Draft Environmental Impact Statement on June 14, 2018. In the waning weeks of this comment period, a substantial number of supportive comments from influential voices throughout Georgia and the United States were submitted to the FAA. In particular, the entire Georgia Congressional delegation - including all 14 members of the House and both Georgia Senators - wrote in favor of the project.

Georgia's Congressional delegation was joined by former Speaker of the House and National Space Council Advisory Group member, Newt Gingrich; Georgia's Superintendent of Schools, Richard Woods; The Commercial Spaceflight Federation (CSF); the Coastal Regional Commission of Georgia; ACCG; and Vector, all advocating for the swift approval of the Draft EIS and issuance of the launch site operator's license for Camden County.

A common theme among the above commenters is the increased need for launch capacity amidst growing demand from the commercial space industry. The National Space Council and the Trump Administration have made streamlining launch and reentry licensing a focus of our national space policy. But as CFS President, Eric Stallmer noted, "Streamlining launch and reentry licensing without increasing launch capacity simply shifts the innovation bottleneck from regulatory licensing to launch delays and range congestion."

*"Award-Winning Government"*

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STEVE L. HOWARD  
County Administrator

JOHN S. MYERS  
County Attorney

LANNIE BRANT  
Commissioner, District 1

CHUCK CLARK  
Commissioner, District 2

JIMMY STARLINE  
Commissioner, District 3

GARY BLOUNT  
Commissioner, District 4

BEN CASEY  
Commissioner, District 5

“We’ve always said this is the right project at the right time,” said Steve Howard, Camden County Administrator and Spaceport Camden project lead. “The support from elected officials, commercial space companies, and space policy advocates all reaches the same conclusion: The United States needs more launch capacity and Spaceport Camden is best suited to meet this demand. We appreciate the recognition that Spaceport Camden is an important part of our national space strategy,” added Howard.

The FAA will review all the public comments received during the Draft EIS comment period and issue a Final EIS and Record of Decision in the coming months. In the meantime, Camden County plans to formally submit its launch site operator license application to the FAA, which will trigger a 180-day “shot clock” for a final decision on the issuance of the launch site operator’s license.

***More about Spaceport Camden:*** Our Vision is to develop a successful world class spaceport through a public-private partnership that establishes Camden County as the Commercial Space Center of the United States. Our Mission is to create the premier spaceport strategically positioned to provide economic diversity with a competitive advantage for the space sector, Camden County, the State of Georgia and the United States of America. For more information, please view our website at [www.SpaceportCamden.us](http://www.SpaceportCamden.us).

***Find us on:***



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*“Award-Winning Government”*

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Commissioner, District 5

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 18, 2018

The Honorable Dan Elwell  
Acting Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Administrator Elwell:

We write in support of Camden County's application for a Launch Site Operator's License under the Office of Commercial Space Transportation. The Spaceport Camden project is extremely important to the economic future of coastal Georgia and marks the beginning of an excellent opportunity to leverage the research and expertise present in the region.

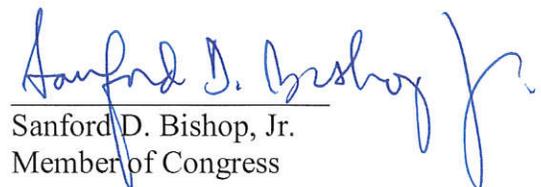
Spaceport Camden would be the only non-federal range on the East Coast and a major component of the National Space Strategy by providing additional launch capacity for the commercial space industry. As the needs of commercial space continue to grow, development of projects such as this can ensure American companies remain world leaders in space technology. Spaceport Camden, through its location and latitude, provides a unique site to meet the needs of East Coast spaceport users.

Space Policy Directive 2, which was released in May, set aside new policies for the Secretary of Transportation to release a new regulatory system for managing launch and re-entry activity. As the FAA works to finalize the Environmental Impact Statement for Spaceport Camden and begins its review of Camden's application for a Launch Site Operator's License, we look forward to working with the FAA to empower local communities to build upon the commercial space work being done across the country.

Thank you for your commitment to promoting commercial space needs and for your consideration of this important project. We look forward to working with you on this and future projects.

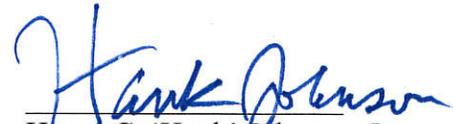
Sincerely,

  
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress

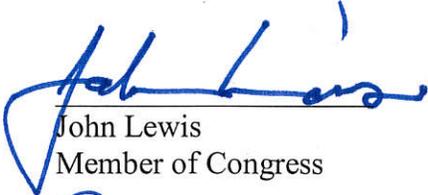
  
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



A. Drew Ferguson IV DMD  
Member of Congress



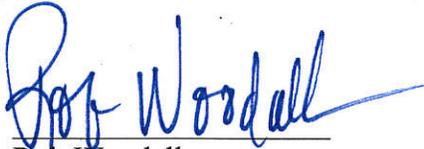
Henry C. 'Hank' Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



John Lewis  
Member of Congress



Karen Handel  
Member of Congress



Rob Woodall  
Member of Congress



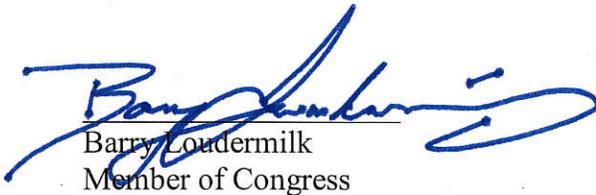
Austin Scott  
Member of Congress



Doug Collins  
Member of Congress



Jody Hice  
Member of Congress



Barry Loudermilk  
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen  
Member of Congress



David Scott  
Member of Congress



Tom Graves  
Member of Congress

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 17, 2018

The Honorable Dan Elwell  
Acting Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Administrator Elwell:

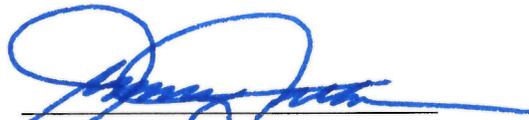
We write to you in support of Camden County and their application for a Launch Site Operator's License through the Federal Aviation Administration Office of Commercial Space Transportation. This project is important to the economic future of coastal Georgia and represents an excellent opportunity to augment America's space launch capability. By leveraging the Southeast's dynamic high-technology industry and cutting-edge research, Spaceport Camden will serve as a catalyst for continued American leadership in aerospace development and spaceflight technology.

As the only exclusively non-federal range on the east coast, Spaceport Camden will advance a key tenet of the National Space Strategy by providing additional launch capacity for the commercial space industry. In 2017, the United States led the world in commercial space launches, and the record-setting pace of commercial spaceflight growth is expected to accelerate in coming years. Spaceport Camden will play a crucial role in supporting that growth, as its location within the Southeastern Aerospace Corridor will provide convenient access for spaceport users and the industries that support them. Additionally, Spaceport Camden's relatively low latitude and Atlantic Ocean range will allow orbital launches to take advantage of Earth's rotational velocity and avoid overflight of politically sensitive areas.

As the Federal Aviation Administration works to finalize the Environmental Impact Statement for Spaceport Camden and evaluate its application for a Launch Site Operator's License, we also encourage the FAA to avoid any unnecessary procedural delay. Projects like this are vital to securing America's future in space.

In respect for your established policies and procedures, we ask that you give Camden County full consideration of their application for a Launch Site Operator's License. Please do not hesitate to contact our offices if we can be of assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Johnny Isakson  
United States Senator



David A. Perdue  
United States Senator



## NEWT GINGRICH

June 8, 2018

The Honorable Dan Elwell  
Acting Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Administrator Elwell:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write in support of Spaceport Camden in my home state of Georgia. As you know, Spaceport Camden is a proposed vertical launch facility in Camden County located in extreme southeast Georgia. If approved, Spaceport Camden will be the only purely commercial vertical launch facility on the east coast.

Spaceport Camden is incredibly important to the economy of Georgia. Aerospace components are the number one export from our state, and Georgia Tech is the number two ranked aerospace engineering program in the country. Yet despite these core competencies we are missing out of the burgeoning commercial space industry. Georgia claims just 1/10 of 1 percent of the \$330 billion global space economy, an economy projected to be worth \$3 trillion in the next 30 years. Spaceport Camden is the catalyst Georgia needs to claim a share in this growing market.

Besides being an important economic engine for Georgia, Spaceport Camden is also good public policy. The Trump Administration had the foresight to reconvene the National Space Council and develop a National Space Strategy to streamline commercial space regulations. These regulatory reforms are critical to ensuring American companies remain world leaders in space technology. But streamlining commercial space regulations will not hasten space innovation if we do not also increase launch capacity, particularly vertical launch capacity on the east coast.

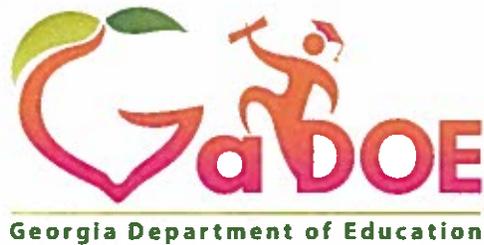
I am an unabashed promoter of space. America's renewed interest in space innovation, and investment that is powering the commercial space industry cannot be wasted. There is too much at stake.

Thank you for work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Newt".

Newt Gingrich



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***Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent***

*"Educating Georgia's Future"*

June 12, 2018

Ms. Stacey M. Zee  
Environmental Specialist, FAA  
c/o Leidos  
2109 Air Park Road SE, Suite 200  
Albuquerque, NM 87106

Dear Ms. Zee:

On behalf of the Georgia Department of Education, I write to share my support for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Spaceport Camden. Spaceport Camden is a monumental educational opportunity for all of Georgia's children and the FAA has done a remarkable job balancing the operational integrity of Spaceport Camden with environmental protection. I commend you for your work.

The commercial space industry is revitalizing America's interest in space. The most recent SpaceX Falcon Heavy launch reminded many Americans that we still have the best and brightest aerospace engineers in the world. As Georgia's State School Superintendent, it is my job to encourage students to aspire to be the next generation of rocket scientists and ensure that Georgia's K-12 students are prepared to meet that challenge.

I am acutely aware of the need for more science, technology, engineering and math curricula in our public schools. Jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century require our students to be proficient in complex mathematics, computer systems and the hard sciences like physics, chemistry and biology. The space industry touches all of these disciplines and attracting the best and brightest space researchers to Georgia will exponentially increase the quality of a public education in Georgia. For these reasons, I strongly support the Spaceport Camden initiative.

As I am sure you know, Georgia is home to one of the premier aerospace engineering programs in the world at Georgia Tech. It is my belief that Spaceport Camden will provide a pipeline of Georgia high school graduates to the aerospace programs at Georgia Universities for future aerospace careers in Georgia.

Sincerely,

Richard Woods  
State School Superintendent, Georgia

June 11th, 2018

The Honorable Dan Elwell  
Acting Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Administrator Elwell:

On behalf of the Commercial Spaceflight Federation (CSF), I write in support of Spaceport Camden and encourage the Federal Aviation Administration to finalize the Environmental Impact Statement for Spaceport Camden and swiftly approve Camden's application for a launch site operators license.

CSF and its 80+ members are laying the foundation for a sustainable space economy and democratizing access to space for scientists, students, civilians, and businesses. CSF members are responsible for the creation of thousands of high-tech jobs driven by billions of dollars in investment. CSF members have transformed the space industry and are responsible for some of the biggest leaps in spaceflight and aerospace technology in a generation.

As you know, this Administration has reconvened the National Space Council and developed a National Space Strategy to streamline the legal and administrative regime that will allow us to continue to help transform how Americans access and use space. Spaceport Camden represents a key tenant of these initiatives by providing additional launch capacity for the commercial space industry to ensure that American companies remain world leaders in space technology.

In furtherance of the Administration's space strategy, President Trump signed Space Policy Directive 2 (SPD-2) on May 24, to reorganize and reform the way the federal government regulates U.S. commercial space companies. Among the directives in SPD-2 is a requirement to streamline launch and reentry licensing. Streamlining launch and reentry licensing without increasing launch capacity simply shifts the innovation bottleneck from regulatory licensing to launch delays and range congestion.

As the Federal Aviation Administration works to finalize the Environmental Impact Statement for Spaceport Camden and begins its review of Camden County's application for a launch site operators license, CSF encourages the FAA to approve this new launch site without delay. America's leadership in the global space industry depends on the FAA's ability to quickly and safely license commercial space activity.

Sincerely,



Eric Stallmer  
President, Commercial Space Federation



March 19, 2018

Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist  
Federal Aviation Administration  
c/o Leidos  
2109 Air Park Road SE, Suite 200  
Albuquerque, NM 87106

RE: Continued Support of  
Spaceport Camden

Dear Ms. Zee:

The Coastal Regional Commission Council unanimously passed a Resolution in support of Spaceport Camden on November 10, 2015.

Our Council is comprised of elected officials and non-public representatives from the counties of Bryan, Bulloch, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, and Screven.

The Council still believes that the development of a Spaceport in Camden County will ultimately benefit our entire coastal Georgia Region and we strongly continue our support for the development of Spaceport Camden. Should you have any questions or like to discuss this, I can be reached at (912) 437-0810 or [aburns@crc.ga.gov](mailto:aburns@crc.ga.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Allen Burns", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Allen Burns  
Executive Director

AB/ch

# Resolution

**Whereas**, it is the belief of the Coastal Regional Commission Council that the formation of a Spaceport in Camden County, Georgia will encourage economic development, increase tax base, and promote employment; and

**Whereas**, commercial space is an emerging industry for the State of Georgia and the global space economy is three hundred plus billion dollars; as well as Georgia Tech graduates more than 200 aerospace students each year who have strong interests in space systems, engineering, and space science; and

**Whereas**, the Coastal Regional Commission Council understands the inherent viability of a spaceport site within Camden County due to its rural location and undeveloped buffer zone; and

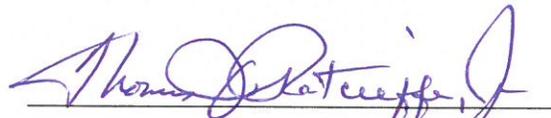
**Whereas**, the Coastal Regional Commission Council desires to be a strong supporter and advocate in the efforts of pursuing a Spaceport in Camden County,

**Now therefore, be it resolved**, that the Coastal Regional Commission Council hereby supports the efforts of Camden County in pursuit of a Spaceport.

**Adopted** this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2015.



By:

  
Thomas J. Ratcliffe, Jr. Chairman

Attest

  
Allen Burns, Executive Director



Advancing Georgia's Counties.

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Kevin Little  
Walton County

Edwin Nix  
White County

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Dave Wills

June 15, 2018

The Honorable Dan Elwell  
Acting Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administrator  
800 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20024

RE: Spaceport Camden

Dear Administrator Elwell,

I am writing in support of Spaceport Camden, believing that final approval of the Environmental Impact Statement and subsequent approval of Camden County's application for a launch site applicator's license will have a transformative effect upon the county's and surrounding area's economy, bringing significant growth and opportunities as the space industry continues its expansion.

As the singular representative of all of Georgia's 159 counties, our primary mission is to represent counties on issues of statewide impact. In fact, our guiding principles preclude significant involvement by ACCG in matter's which affect only a single county. But Spaceport Camden is analogous to the port at Savannah, which has a statewide, indeed national, economic impact. My view is that Spaceport Camden, once in full operation, will have a statewide, even national, economic impact too.

Even as I write, I am mindful that some interests are opposed, for various reasons, including environmental, to Spaceport Camden. ACCG supports a sustainable environment and reasonable steps to ensure that outcome. Although ACCG does not possess expertise concerning environmental management relative to the issues in play at Spaceport Camden, I am optimistic about and would encourage an approach to appropriately address environmental concerns in a manner which would allow the project to proceed to completion.

As the United States continues to advance in space technology and innovation, Spaceport Camden can play a key role, once approved by the involved regulatory agencies. I trust that the FAA can and will take appropriate action to ensure the successful outcome desired by Camden County and supporters of Spaceport Camden.

Sincerely,

Dave Wills  
Executive Director

# VECTOR

824 E. 16th Street  
Tucson, Arizona 85719  
888-346-7778

June 11, 2018

Ms. Stacey M. Zee  
Environmental Specialist  
Federal Aviation Administration  
c/o Leidos  
2109 Air Park Road SE, Suite 200  
Albuquerque, NM 87106

Submitted VIA EMAIL: [FAACamdenSpaceportEIS@Leidos.com](mailto:FAACamdenSpaceportEIS@Leidos.com)

Re: Spaceport Camden Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Camden County, GA

Dear Ms. Zee,

Vector Launch, Inc. ("Vector") appreciates the opportunity to submit this letter in support of the FAA's Proposed Action of issuing a Launch Site Operator License to the State of Georgia's Camden County Board of Commissioners (County) to operate a proposed commercial space launch site, named Spaceport Camden. The FAA's Proposed Action would allow Vector and other commercial launch operators to conduct vertical launches from, and provide associated support services at, Spaceport Camden. Having a selection of qualified launch sites in the United States will help commercial operators meet emerging demand for launch services, particularly in the small satellite market.

As you may be aware, Vector conducted a suborbital test flight of the Vector Rapid Prototype Vehicle in August 2017, making it the first test rocket to launch from the proposed site. The leadership, staff and local stakeholders of Camden County and Spaceport Camden provided superb support to Vector, which contributed to making our test launch mission a success.

Please feel free to contact me directly at 520-275-0519 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Alex Rodriguez

Vice President, Government and External Affairs

Cc: Camden County Board of Commissioners