

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 and to further grow Colorado as a center of excellence for space. We are core supporters of the strong regional effort to develop Front Range Airport as Spaceport Colorado and are convinced that Spaceport Colorado will successfully leverage the region's many existing assets, drive further growth in the commercial space arena, and prove to be a valuable national asset in the future growth of commercial space transportation. As the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) works with Front Range Airport to complete the spaceport certification, we wish to highlight Colorado's leadership in space research and development and to demonstrate the broad support from the community for Spaceport Colorado.

As the number one Aerospace Economy in the United States, aerospace and aviation are significant economic drivers in Colorado. Colorado's Aerospace Industry employs 55,430 workers, supports an additional 135,450 workers in other industries, and generates over \$15.4 billion in 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 3,200 acres of land and surrounded by over 7,000 acres of privately owned industrial property, Front Range Airport is well positioned to take advantage of both the exceptional Colorado high-tech workforce and the outstanding connections available through Denver International Airport. While it is remote enough to safely conduct horizontal launch operations, it is close enough to meet the needs of future commercial customers located in the Denver Metropolitan area and the region. These natural advantages, combined with the resources available from Colorado's aerospace community, make Front Range Airport very well-situated in the effort to further develop commercial space transportation in Colorado. The Spaceport Colorado team has done an exceptional job of evaluating the safety and viability of this location and the approval of Front Range Airport's Launch Site Operators 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 list of assets, will make an excellent spaceport state. We are very excited to hear that Front Range Airport's application has been moved into the final 180 Day review process and we reemphasize our support to this proposal without any hesitation. Thank you for your consideration of the 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,

Congressman Coffman,
Congressman Perlmutter,
Congressman Polis,
Senator Bennet,
Senator Gardner