STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BOB FERGUSON

November 13, 2026

Presidential Commission on the United States Space Academy
c/o Office of Strategic Infrastructure, NASA
300 E St. SW
Suite 5R30
Washington, DC 20546

Re: Washington State Support for the United States Space Academy

Dear Members of the Presidential Commission:

On behalf of Washington state, I am pleased to express my strong support for locating the United States Space Academy in Washington. Our state is uniquely positioned to support this important national initiative through our world-class space industry, leading research universities, highly skilled workforce, and commitment to advancing America's leadership in space exploration and innovation.

Washington is home to more than 90 space companies employing over 13,000 workers, and approximately two-thirds of the world's operational satellites were manufactured here. Our state is home to industry leaders, including Boeing, Blue Origin, SpaceX, Amazon Leo, and Rocketdyne, alongside a rapidly growing generation of innovative companies such as Stoke Space, Starfish Space, Interlune, and Portal Space Systems. These companies are supported by world-class research institutions, including the University of Washington and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Washington's contributions to space exploration stretch back to the Apollo missions, when Boeing workers in Kent built the lunar rovers that explored the surface of the moon. Today, that same region is at the center of a thriving space industry developing the next generation of launch vehicles, satellites, propulsion systems, and space technologies.

Recognizing the importance of this growing industry, I established the Washington Space Council through Executive Order 26-04 in September 2026. The Council brings together leaders from industry, higher education, labor, and government to strengthen Washington's space sector, advance workforce development, and identify opportunities for strategic investment and collaboration. Establishing the United States Space Academy in Washington would build directly on these efforts and further strengthen our state's contributions to the nation's space economy.

Washington's proposal offers a clear path to establishing the Academy. The University of Washington would provide interim academic instruction and facilities beginning in 2028, followed by a transition to a permanent campus at Woodbridge Corporate Park in Federal Way in 2031, with additional facilities in Auburn. Located in the South King County Space Corridor, the

proposed campus would place cadets near a remarkable concentration of space companies, research institutions and aerospace manufacturing facilities.

The state of Washington is committed to working collaboratively with NASA, the University of Washington, our space industry, and regional partners to support the Academy's successful establishment and long-term growth. The Washington StateDepartment of Commerce and Washington Space Council will help coordinate statewide partnerships and support the planning necessary to advance this opportunity. If selected, my administration is prepared to work with the Legislature, the University of Washington, and our regional and industry partners to identify appropriate state investments and resources to support the Academy's establishment and long-term success.

For purposes of Washington's application, I hereby designate the University of Washington as the State's official Responding Entity. I further designate Tricia Serio, Provost of the University of Washington, as the State Selecting Official for this response. I endorse the proposed permanent campus at Woodbridge Corporate Park, together with the Auburn expansion site, as Washington's preferred location for the Academy.

Washington state has the talent, infrastructure, partnerships, and vision to help make the United States Space Academy a national success. I strongly encourage the Commission to select Washington as its home.

Sincerely,



Bob Ferguson
Governor