

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 24, 2026

The Honorable Jared Isaacman, Chair
Presidential Commission on the United States Space Academy
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
300 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20546

Dear Chairman Isaacman and Members of the Commission:

I write to respectfully urge you and the commission to consider Grissom Air Reserve Base and the surrounding Grissom Aeroplex in Indiana as home of the U.S. Space Academy.

Named in honor of Indiana native Lieutenant Colonel Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, one of America's original seven astronauts and the second to fly in space, Grissom offers a fitting connection between America's earliest achievements in human spaceflight and the next generation of American space leaders. The installation and surrounding Aeroplex also offer substantial capacity for future classrooms, housing, and training infrastructure, along with access to a 12,501-foot runway, one of the longest in the Midwest.

Indiana also offers the academic and industrial ecosystem necessary to support the Academy's long-term mission. The state offers a low cost of living, leading STEM and research universities, and a growing aerospace, defense, and advanced-manufacturing workforce. Indiana companies already contribute directly to America's space missions, including 21 suppliers supporting NASA's Artemis program. Locating the Space Academy at Grissom would give cadets access to this broader network and create opportunities to connect classroom education with hands-on experience across the civil, commercial, and national security sectors.

Thank you for considering Grissom Air Reserve Base in Indiana as the headquarters for U.S. Space Force. I look forward to working with the Commission to bring the Academy to Indiana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jim Banks", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jim Banks
U.S. Senator