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CHAIRMAN OF
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ENFORCEMENT, &
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DEPUTY WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
& COMMERCE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY

July 18, 2023

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Chairman
House Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Ranking Member
House Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Lucas and Ranking Member Lofgren:

Thank you for providing Members the opportunity to share our priorities for the 118th Congress. As a native west Texan and U.S. Air Force Veteran, I understand the security implications of being a step behind our adversaries and the potential rural America may offer in closing that gap. As the Science, Space, and Technology Committee continues to consider legislative priorities for the 118th Congress, I urge the Committee to consider streamlined, consistent funding for rural spaceports, fighting back against the Biden administration's Environmental Justice agenda, and supporting national energy research labs.

The Midland International Air and Space Port Business Park is the first commercial spaceport co-located with an FAA Part 139 commercial airport. This spaceport, an FAA-approved Commercial Space Launch and Re-Entry Site, is ideal for companies producing, testing, and launching satellites and reusable vehicles. Without streamlined, consistent funding, developing spaceports, like Midland, are unable to proactively plan for future projects. For spaceports to effectively participate in the rapidly growing industry, it is imperative they have certainty in funding levels.

Additionally, space companies that establish themselves at spaceports can generate thousands of high-paying jobs and education opportunities for rural Americans. Not only will jobs in traditional sectors like fabrication, construction, and operations be made available, spaceports have the potential to offer new, innovative career paths that currently do not exist. Emboldening spaceports in our rural regions will spur opportunities and will have significant economic benefits across the state and throughout the nation.

Emerging technologies in both terrestrial and space applications are poised to change our world dramatically in the coming decades. Spaceports around the country, including west Texas, are eager to do their part in providing a strategic advantage to the future and security of our nation. I appreciate your consideration of these requests to streamline funding to rural spaceports and establish a hypersonic corridor between Midland Spaceport and Spaceport America.

On April 21, President Biden signed Executive Order 14096: "Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All." Under this E.O., each federal agency must make achieving environmental justice (EJ) part of its mission and accordingly develop an "Environmental Justice Strategic Plan." It injects environmental justice into federal regulations, licensing, permitting, and awarding and conditioning of federal funds. As part of this government-wide approach, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews must analyze "indirect and cumulative effects of federal actions on communities with environmental justice concerns." In response, I introduced H.R.3256, the Preventing Executive Climate Overreach Act, which nullifies Executive Order 14096 to prevent the Biden administration from

further injecting this Green New Deal ideology into the lives of everyday Americans. H.R.3256 seeks to reverse the harm of President Biden's policies, which have weakened America's energy security and exacerbated record high inflation. It is my hope that the Committee consider this legislation so that it may move to the floor for a vote.

Instead of focusing on a radical energy agenda, the Biden administration should be supporting the work of our energy industry, as well as our National Laboratories across the country. Our National Labs do important work in tackling the challenges facing our nation and help drive innovation and new technologies across the energy industry. As energy demand continues to grow worldwide, it is important that this Committee conduct appropriate oversight of our National Labs, while supporting the groundbreaking work they do.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration on these priorities. I look forward to working with you in future endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "August Pfluger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "August" and the last name "Pfluger" clearly distinguishable.

August Pfluger
Member of Congress