



CITY OF HOUSTON
Mayor's Office of Economic Development

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The Honorable Greg Bonnen
Chairman, Texas House Appropriations Committee
Room E2.502
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

RE: Support for HB 3447 Establishing the Texas Space Commission and Texas Aerospace Research & Space Consortium

Dear Chairman Bonnen:

The City of Houston is in support of HB 3447 which would establish the Texas Space Commission (TSC) and Texas Aerospace Research & Space Consortium (TARSEC).

Houston is known as "Space City" for many reasons. It was in Houston that John F. Kennedy challenged America to go to the Moon and undertake other laudable challenges precisely because they were hard; it was in Houston that NASA established the Manned Space Flight Center (later Johnson Space Center) to propel mankind into a space unknown; and it was in Houston that astronauts, engineers, and scientists traveled continuously into that space unknown to explore, discover and study the cosmos to impact and enhance life on earth.

It is in Houston that the 10th commercial spaceport is spurring Texas economic development into a new frontier; it is in Houston that Axiom Space is creating the next generation space suit that will take man back to the Moon, this time to stay; and it is in Houston that Rice University, Texas Southern University, Texas A&M University, and the University of Houston – Clear Lake are leading the way in the next phase of space research, creating the ecosystem in which business and academia will work together. Most importantly, it will be in Houston, Texas, that space leadership is maintained and expanded for our great country.

HB 3447 will provide the resources needed to continue in that tradition of leadership. The proposed authorities of the Texas Space Commission are essential to this effort, specifically including the ability to provide financial services, create intergovernmental agreements, implement aerospace-related educational opportunities, and develop a strategic plan to promote space, aeronautics, and aviation economic development in Texas. The Space Exploration and Aeronautics Research Fund will also be an invaluable resource as Houston businesses continue to develop emerging technologies around space operations, Houston universities conduct cutting-edge research into space exploration and spaceflight, and Houston community colleges, technical schools, and other partner organizations create and implement workforce development training to connect our residents with the stars.

We appreciate the leadership on the issue of space exploration and development, particularly as it pertains to the role of the City of Houston and the State of Texas in these ventures. The City of Houston fully supports passage of HB 3447, and we would be glad to provide additional evidence of the need for the entities created by it. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance in these efforts.

Sincerely,



Gwendolyn Tillotson-Bell
Deputy Director, Economic Development Office
City of Houston