



September 11, 2026

The Honorable Henry McMaster

Governor of South Carolina
State House, 1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, SC 29201

**Re: NASA Request for Information
Creation of the United States Space Academy**

On August 28, 2026, President Donald Trump issued an executive order, *Establishing the United States Space Academy*. The order established a presidential commission chaired by the NASA Administrator to recommend a framework for the Academy's establishment, including a process for selecting its permanent physical location.

On September 10, 2026, NASA issued a Request for Information NASA-USSA-RFI, establishing the exclusive process for official state-sponsored responses to be evaluated for presentation to the Commission. NASA will accept one response per state, representing its final, integrated approach and proposed Academy location or locations. The Governor must designate both a Responding Entity and a State Selecting Official in writing. Responses are due October 26, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Central Time.

In this light, The American Space Law Society, a South Carolina nonprofit, urges the Governor to designate in writing both a State Selecting Official and a Responding Entity so that South Carolina can submit its response to the RFI by October 26, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Central Time.

The American Space Law Society is dedicated to advancing the field of space law and policy and has submitted comments and responses to federal requests for information, notably the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's *Potential Use of the Outer Continental Shelf for Offshore Space Launch and Re-entry Activities* and NASA's *Private Sector Partnerships in Astrobiology, Planetary Protection, and Space Biology*.

In the days following the signing of the executive order, The American Space Law Society has pursued rigorous research into the history and methods of professional development for the space workforce to address questions posed in the order. Our work thus far could be of particular use in responding to NASA-USSA-RFI §05.B.2, *Narrative of Cohesive and Distinct USSA Experience*. The American Space Law Society is prepared to provide a report on our findings and concepts relevant to this section, including our proposed “Space Year,” a culminating capstone bringing together students from different disciplines through applied work.

To that end, The American Space Law Society requests a 20-minute meeting with the staff member responsible for coordinating these designations, or the designated response lead if already assigned, to discuss potential contributions and support.

There is immense opportunity before the state in the form of the United States Space Academy. South Carolina is already home to robust military training institutions, including Fort Jackson and The Citadel, and aerospace companies and installations, including Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and Joint Base Lindsey Graham. South Carolina also hosts the 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, the only Army Air and Missile Defense Command in the National Guard, which became part of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command in 2025. Hosting the United States Space Academy would further bolster South Carolina’s relevance on the national stage and influence over our nation’s expanding future in the stars. It is no accident that upon the field of blue sit two symbols, the palmetto tree, and the moon.

Thank you,

/s/ Matthew Tortora

President, The American Space Law Society

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