



John W. Suthers  
Mayor

March 7, 2023

Dear Secretary Kendall:

I am the Mayor of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and have been since June 2015. I have also served as the Attorney General of Colorado and U.S. Attorney for Colorado. During my role as Mayor, I have been involved in the effort to retain US Space Command headquarters in the city.

While I am hardly an unbiased observer of the process, I do want to relate two conversations I had with former President Donald Trump that led me to conclude the President's decision to move Space Command headquarters to Huntsville, Alabama was a wholly political one. Both conversations took place on the tarmac at Peterson Space Force Base and both were witnessed by high-ranking officers in the US Space Force. The first was in the spring of 2019 when President Trump came to Colorado Springs to speak at the Air Force Academy graduation, and the second came in February 2020 when he came to the city for a political rally. In both instances, I was the first to greet him when he got off Air Force One and I mentioned Colorado Springs had been the home of all previous iterations of Space Command, and we hoped to remain the permanent home of Space Command headquarters. In the spring 2019 meeting, I was surprised to hear the President assert that, despite any process the Air Force was pursuing, he would make the decision "personally", and the only question is whether it would be before or after the 2020 election. The February 2020 meeting was more extensive and enlightening. My wife Janet and I were both standing next to high-ranking Space Force officers. When I once again made my pitch to President Trump, he asked me if I was a Republican mayor. When I replied that I was, he asked what his chances were of carrying Colorado in the November election. When I said they were "uncertain" he seemed perturbed. He then turned to the high-ranking officer in the Space Force and asked him, "Is this where it should be?" The high-ranking officer replied, "Absolutely, Mr. President." The President then reiterated that he would make the decision and said it would be after the 2020 election. "I want to see how it turns out," he said.

Because of these conversations with the President, and the role played by Alabama Congressman Mo Brooks in the rally before the storming of the US Capitol on January 6, 2021, I was disappointed, but not surprised, that the President, after the decision to move to Huntsville was made a week before he left office, fully admitted to Alabama Audiences that he "single-handedly" made the decision to move the command to Huntsville.

I understand there are some in the Biden Administration who contend the Trump Administration's decision to move Space Command headquarters was not wholly political, despite the former President's public assertions to the contrary. I hope my conversations with President Trump, which were witnessed by others, as related herein, will shed further light on the matter.

I would be glad to answer any questions you or anyone else might have about the matter, or provide an affidavit, if requested.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John W. Suthers".

John W. Suthers

Mayor of Colorado Springs

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