



SBCTAC  
2151 S. College Drive, Suite 101  
Santa Maria, CA 9355  
(805) 708-9100  
Mike@SBCTAC.org

July 17, 2024

Dr. Caryl Hart  
California Coastal Commission  
455 Market Street, Suite 300  
San Francisco, CA 94105

SUB: Support for the Space Force Proposal to Increase Launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base

Dear Dr. Hart,

The Santa Barbara Taxpayer Advocacy Center (SBTAC) is a 501(c)4 dedicated to supporting policies that promote fiscal responsibility, economic prosperity, property rights and public safety. We are a local, grassroots organization that wants to improve Santa Barbara County residents' quality of life, grow our local economy, and keep our community safe.

With its mission of increasing economic prosperity in mind, SBTAC is proud to support the United States Space Force's application to increase the number of space rocket launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base.

Vandenberg has long been an economic driver in Santa Barbara County, and is a critical asset to our nation's space and national security infrastructure. The strategic location and existing infrastructure of Vandenberg SFB offer unmatched advantages for increasing launch frequency, which we believe can drive significant economic growth and technological innovation both regionally and nationally.

### **Economic and Community Benefits**

Job Creation: Each additional launch at Vandenberg SFB will create a surge in demand for highly skilled professionals, including engineers, technicians, and support staff. This demand will result in new job opportunities, providing stable and lucrative employment for local residents and stimulating the regional economy.

Boost to Local Businesses: Increased launch activities will have a positive ripple effect on local businesses, from suppliers and service providers to hospitality and retail sectors. The economic impact will create a more vibrant and resilient local economy, benefitting the entire community.

Attracting Investments: A higher frequency of launches can attract significant investments from aerospace companies and related industries. This influx of capital will foster an environment of innovation and development, further cementing Vandenberg SFB's role as a hub for aerospace activities and technological advancement.

Educational Opportunities: Enhanced launch operations can spur partnerships with educational institutions, leading to the creation of specialized programs and training initiatives. These collaborations will ensure a steady pipeline of qualified professionals to meet the growing demands of the aerospace industry.

### **Environmental Considerations**

We understand the California Coastal Commission's commitment to protecting coastal resources, maintaining public access to our coast, and ensuring sustainable development. The Space Force proposal includes comprehensive environmental assessments and mitigation strategies to minimize any potential impact on the coastal environment. Increased launch activities can be managed in a way that aligns with environmental stewardship and sustainability goals while providing no increase in the number of days local beaches are closed compared to the present day.

### **Conclusion**

SBTAC believes that supporting the increase in launches at Vandenberg SFB will yield substantial economic, technological, and strategic benefits. We are eager to support this initiative and collaborate with all relevant stakeholders to realize this vision. Together, we can drive economic growth, foster innovation, and strengthen our nation's position in the global aerospace sector while maintaining our commitment to environmental sustainability.

Thank you for considering our support for this proposal. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this further and to work closely with the California Coastal Commission to make this vision a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Michael Stoker". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike Stoker  
President/CEO