



April 16, 2024

The Honorable Joe Biden
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

President Biden,

I am writing to express my opposition to Legislative Proposal 480 submitted by the Secretary of the Air Force and the Department of Defense for the upcoming National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that would transfer all covered space functions of the Air National Guard to the United States Space Force without Governor consent in direct contravention to authorities granted to myself and all Governors under Title 32 U.S.C. §104(c) and Title 10 U.S.C § 18238.

To move National Guard assets from a state without the consent of the Governor would set an unacceptable precedent by ignoring the specific authorities Title 32 and Title 10 have provided for decades. These protections ensure that a State's National Guard has the capacity and capability to respond to domestic emergencies and still execute its functions as the primary combat reserve for both the Army and the Air Force as the United States continues to compete with our adversaries and support Allies across the globe.

As the Commander in Chief of the Wyoming National Guard I am committed to protecting the residents of my state as well as contributing to the defense of our nation. Therefore, I oppose any actions such as LP 480 that would put in jeopardy my ability to do so. Such a blatant disregard of gubernatorial authority threatens the very existence of a force that has proven critical in our nation's ability to conduct the Global War on Terror, respond to national emergencies (COVID, Katrina, Ike, Irma, Harvey and the California and Hawaii wildfires to name a few), and provide each state the trained and ready personnel required to respond and prevent emergencies within its own borders.

The ill-advised LP 480 has its origins in the refusal of your administration and the DoD to establish a Space National Guard as the most cost beneficial and effective solution to our national security. You know as well as I how well trained, motivated, and expert our National Guardsmen are, particularly within this mission set. The National Guard has decades of experience and successes performing these missions that will simply go by the wayside if the DoD follows through with its stated intention to re-create in the United States Space Force capability that we critically need to ensure our national security in space. Loss of this existing

capability that will take years and millions of dollars to equal (if it can be equaled given the recruiting and retention challenges faced by our active forces).

I oppose LP 480 in the strongest possible terms. I urge you and the Department of Defense to quickly remove all roadblocks to establishing a Space National Guard as the solution to ensure that our country retains the ability to perform space missions NOW, not years from now, as the Space Force attempts to replicate our National Guard professionals.

I am available and interested in further actions that protect the sovereign authorities of Governors while providing the nation the essential skills and mission accomplishment that are hallmarks of our National Guard forces.

Sincerely,



Mark Gordon
Governor of Wyoming

MG:el:kh

cc: Senator John Barrasso
Senator Cynthia Lummis
Representative Harriet Hageman