STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BOB FERGUSON

EXECUTIVE ORDER 26-04

WASHINGTON SPACE COUNCIL

WHEREAS, Washington state has a long and distinguished history of leadership in aerospace innovation, advanced manufacturing, and engineering excellence; and

WHEREAS, Washington has emerged as one of the world's leading centers for the commercial space economy, home to more than 90 space companies engaged in satellite manufacturing, launch and propulsion systems, space communications, space resources and infrastructure, advanced materials, and other emerging space technologies; and

WHEREAS, Washington is the global leader in satellite manufacturing, with more than 13,000 satellites manufactured in the state and approximately two-thirds of the world's operational satellites built in Washington; and

WHEREAS, Washington's commercial space industry includes approximately two dozen venture-backed companies that have collectively attracted more than $4 billion in private investment while supporting more than 13,000 direct jobs and generating approximately $4.6 billion in annual economic activity and $1.6 billion in annual payroll; and

WHEREAS, the Puget Sound region is home to one of the nation's most significant concentrations of commercial space companies; and

WHEREAS, ensuring a skilled workforce pipeline, a competitive business climate, supportive infrastructure, and a coordinated statewide strategy is critical to sustaining and expanding Washington's leadership in the global commercial space economy;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Ferguson, Governor of the state of Washington, by the power vested in me by the Constitution and the statutes of the state of Washington, do hereby order and direct the following:

1. The Governor's Washington Space Council ("Council") is hereby established under the purview and subject to the direction of the Governor's Office.

2. The Council shall include representatives from the commercial space industry, aerospace and advanced manufacturing sectors, higher education institutions, labor, federal partners, legislators, local government, and others as designated by the Office of the Governor.

3. The Department of Commerce shall provide staffing and other logistical support to the Council.

4. The Council shall:
    a. Evaluate Washington's competitive position relative to other leading states and nations in the commercial space economy;
    b. Identify barriers and opportunities for industry growth;
    c. Evaluate workforce development, education, and research needs;
    d. Assess infrastructure and supply chain capacity;
    e. Evaluate opportunities and requirements for Washington-based commercial launch capabilities and other space-related infrastructure; and
    f. Advise the Governor on options and recommendations to strengthen Washington's leadership in commercial space and aerospace innovation.

5. The Council shall submit advisory reports to the Governor with its findings and any recommendations.

This Executive Order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law. Provisions of this Order are not intended to alter any existing collective bargaining agreements. This Order is not intended to confer and does not confer any legal right or entitlement and shall not be used as a basis for legal challenges to any rule or any other action or inaction of the governmental entities and employees subject to it.

This order takes effect immediately.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington on this 28th day of September, AD, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six, at Seattle, Washington.

By:

/s/
Bob Ferguson
Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/
Secretary of State