JENNIFER CARROLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

September 20, 2012

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

The Honorable Charles F. Bolden, Jr.
Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
300 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20546

Dear Mr. Secretary and Administrator Bolden:

The State of Florida requests your joint cooperation to facilitate the acquisition of certain federal government real property at the John F. Kennedy Space Center (KSC) by the State's aerospace development organization, Space Florida, for the continued use and operation of these assets as elements of the nation's space transportation infrastructure.

Florida believes that the properties identified in this request are excess to the needs of the U.S. Government, and such properties are not otherwise needed for public use. Further, the State believes that the transfer of this surplus property to the State of Florida, or a subdivision thereof, is authorized by Title 51, Chapter 509, Section 50913 of the U.S. Code, entitled "Commercial Space Launch Activities," with respect to approximately one hundred and fifty acres of excess launch property, and Title 49, Section 47151 of the U.S. Code, with respect to property Florida proposes to develop and operate as a public airport/spaceport.

First, pursuant to Title 51, the State seeks conveyance from the federal government of approximately 150 acres of undeveloped launch property in the vicinity of the former citrus community of Shiloh, near the northern boundary of KSC. The property is not currently being utilized in launch or other activities, nor has it been designated for operational use on the KSC's twenty-year land use development plan. The State proposes to develop and operate this site as a commercial launch complex independent of the neighboring federal range and spaceports. The State also proposes to re-acquire from the U.S. Government existing highway right-of-way and improvements of the

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former State Road 3, from its intersection with U.S. 1 in Volusia County to a point appropriate for the access requirements of the proposed launch complex.

Secondly, pursuant to Title 49, Section 47151 of the U.S. Code, the State seeks conveyance from the U.S. Government of surplus real property constituting KSC's Shuttle Landing Facility (SLF), including its associated support buildings, systems, and adjoining land, which are necessary to enable future improvements and which are needed to develop sources of revenue from non-aviation businesses at a public airport. Florida intends to manage the development and operation of this asset as a combined special-purpose public airport/spaceport facility in a manner compatible with the KSC's continued operation as a NASA launch complex. Therefore, Florida believes that a Public Benefit Conveyance of the SLF and its associated facilities and land are appropriate under Title 49.

If the requested conveyances of real property are granted, Florida will seek the appropriate operating license(s) from the Federal Aviation Administration in order to manage both areas in coordination with, but jurisdictionally independent from, KSC, and the U.S. Air Force Eastern Range. Florida recognizes the natural resources and environmental considerations that are associated with these areas of KSC, as well as the existing management responsibilities of the Department of Interior with regard to the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and the Canaveral National Seashore. Therefore, Florida requests that you enlist the cooperation of the Secretary of Interior in this process.

As you may know, Florida has invested more resources into the establishment and sustainment of the U.S. space program than any other state. Florida has permitted NASA to use, for as long as needed, more than 56,000 acres of land and easements to support the nation's space program. In addition, Florida has directly invested in, or facilitated the private financing for, approximately one half billion dollars in constructed assets at KSC and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, and Florida's Department of Transportation leads the nation in integrating space transportation into statewide systems planning. The State of Florida has consistently demonstrated our commitment to the U.S. space program through strategic investments supporting U.S. Government mission capabilities and the U.S. space industry.

Florida is experienced in space-related endeavors, and is well prepared to become a public steward of the requested assets. We believe that the requested conveyances will serve to assist NASA in reducing its facilities footprint while producing only favorable impacts on the agency's mission and purpose. Additionally, through thoughtful coordination with the Department of Interior, we believe that the proposed actions will pose no significant impacts to the environment.

Finally, on behalf of the State of Florida and the space transportation industry that we seek to support, I request your joint cooperation and consultation, as envisioned in Title 51, Chapter 509, Section 50913 of the U.S. Code, to facilitate Space Florida's access to U.S. government launch and re-entry property and launch and re-entry services, in accordance with the principles of "direct cost" pricing specified in Section 50913. I also ask that you work to assure consistent interpretation and application of this section's provisions for the State and for private sector operators, providers, and users of launch sites and systems.

The following phrases from Title 51, Sections 50901(a)(8) and (9) appear to capture the essence of Congressional intent: "...in connection with the commerce of the United States there is a need to develop a strong space transportation infrastructure with significant private sector involvement; the participation of State governments in encouraging and facilitating private sector involvement in space-related activity, particularly through the establishment of a space transportation-related infrastructure...is in the national interest and is of a significant public benefit..." Florida could not agree more.

Thank you for your kind consideration of these requests. I look forward to your reply. As the Chairperson of the Space Florida Board, I have asked Mr. Frank DiBello, our President and CEO, to engage with your respective agency points of contact regarding these requests.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Carroll

Jennifer Carroll
Lieutenant Governor

cc: Florida Congressional Delegation

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

November 30, 2012

Reply to Attn of: OLIA/2012-00695:RM:eel

The Honorable Jennifer Carroll
Lieutenant Governor of Florida
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Lieutenant Governor Carroll:

Thank you for your September 20, 2012, letter to Administrator Bolden expressing interest in the potential acquisition by the State of Florida of Federal property on the NASA Kennedy Space Center (KSC). Both NASA and the Department of Transportation appreciate Florida's commitment to encouraging and facilitating private sector involvement in space-related activity and wish to support your efforts to the greatest extent possible. The property identified in your request has not been reported as excess. Furthermore, this property continues to serve NASA long-term mission requirements, as a buffer zone between NASA mission and local communities and as a potential site for future mission requirements.

As we evaluate how best to support Florida's efforts regarding these activities, we would like to further discuss how we might make lands on KSC available for Florida's use such that your intent to develop and operate a site as a commercial launch complex independent of the Federal range and spaceports may be fully realized. We believe that there may be solutions to this need other than full conveyance of these properties to the State.

Regarding your request for the Shuttle Landing Facility, NASA is currently assessing responses to the recently published Request for Information (RFI) seeking to identify entities that may be interested in maintaining and operating this National Asset. The future use and operation of this asset will be considered separately from your proposal for lands in the Shiloh area. A decision regarding the disposition of this asset will follow the completion of the RFI response assessment and review of the Space Florida proposal.

Finally, in regard to further discussions with your representative, Mr Frank DiBello, KSC has established the Center Planning and Development Directorate to coordinate and develop partnerships and related agreements for the use and transfer of NASA real property assets. This Office is managed by Ms. Joyce Riquelme, who will work with

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Mr. DiBello to evaluate options related to this matter. As NASA seeks to make under-utilized, non-excess real estate assets available to private sector entities, we are committed to engaging partnerships through a competitive process.

Again, we wish to thank you for your continued interest and efforts in supporting the development of a strong space transportation infrastructure with significant private sector involvement. We look forward to working with Space Florida to make this vision become a reality.

Sincerely,

Seth Statler

L. Seth Statler
Associate Administrator
for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs