

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on State Affairs
For HB 3447

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Hearing Date: March 29, 2023 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Becki Womble, President/CEO
Bastrop Chamber of Commerce
Bastrop, TX

We support the creation, management, and administration of the Texas Space Commission and the Texas Aerospace Research and Space Economy Consortium. With SpaceX in our backyard and knowing that space is the next frontier, this would be good for business and for Texas.

Joy Kelly, Ph.D.
Jacobs / General Manager Clear slake Group
Houston, TX

This is a critical bill for the economic growth of the space industry in Texas

Jon Nordby
MassChallenge
Houston, TX

MassChallenge is a global innovation accelerator that operates across the world including in Houston, Dallas and Austin. We have run programs to attract and accelerate many startups from around the world to build and validate in TX. The data shows us that the Space Industry is the most promising for the future of the TX economy. We fully support this bill and the impact it has the potential to create for all 9f TX

Brian Freedman, President
Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership
Houston, TX

On behalf of the Board of Directors and membership of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP), I offer our strongest possible support for HB 3447, sponsored by Texas State Rep. Greg Bonnen, M.D. Since its founding 47 years ago, BAHEP, a member-driven organization that provides the leadership to stimulate regional economic development and employment, has engaged with members of Congress to authorize a fully-funded NASA budget in support of NASA at the federal level and locally for NASA Johnson Space Center, its employees and contractor workforce to ensure that the United States maintains its leadership in space and human space exploration.

HB 3447 relates to the creation, management, and administration of the Texas Space Commission and the Texas Aerospace Research and Space Economy Consortium. This bill embodies Texas' vision for its future in the space industry and offers a vital next step to keep Texas at the forefront of space-related initiatives for both NASA and the burgeoning commercial space industry in the state.

Other nations and American states have coordinated, funded, and aggressively pursued opportunities to expand their space presence, a model that Texas would be wise to emulate. This bill effectively addresses Texas' need for a statewide infrastructure for space-related activities and proposes a viable path forward for a coordinated approach to meet the challenges of future human exploration, research, and development of space to benefit humanity.

If Texas is to have a leading role in the future of space, the Texas Space Commission must be instrumental in fusing purpose and resources across the state playing a key role in the larger symphony of Texas' efforts to establish the Lone Star State as the center of the space economy. This will also drive inspiration, prosperity, education, and growth for all Texans.

The competition, both domestically and internationally, is substantial as those in the space industry are enticed with a wide range of incentives and infrastructure improvements to encourage industry growth in their areas. Texas must engage now by passing HB 3447 or risk being left behind in a multi-trillion-dollar space economy over the next decades.

Michael Suffredini, Mr.

Axiom Space

Houston, TX

March 29, 2023

Re: HB 3447

Dear Chair Hunter, Vice Chair Hernandez, Chair Bonnen, and Vice Chair Gonzalez;

I am writing you today regarding the passage of HB 3447; An Act relating to the creation, management and administration of the Texas Space Commission and the Texas Aerospace Research and Space Economy Consortium.

Axiom Space, a commercial space company based in Houston, enthusiastically supports the immediate passage of HB 3447 by the House Committee on State Affairs and the full House of Representatives.

The passage of HB 3447 is critical to the long-term success of the aerospace industrial base in Texas and will ensure the continued development of the space economy in Texas and indeed, in low-Earth orbit and beyond. The space industry in the United States is at an inflection point and requires the continued support of federal, state, and local government to succeed.

As NASA continues to push the boundaries of what is possible in deep space exploration, companies like Axiom Space are developing pipelines for the Texas STEM workforce, our supplier base, and long-term strategies for a vibrant space industry that will benefit generations of Texans.

Currently, Axiom Space utilizes 121 suppliers throughout the State of Texas to build our commercial space station, which will be operational by 2030, in time for the retirement of the International Space Station (ISS). Additionally, Axiom Space is developing the lunar spacesuits for use by the first woman and next man to walk on the Moon as part of NASA's Artemis III mission. It is a great source of pride for us that when the Artemis Astronauts take their first steps on the Moon since Apollo, they will do so with spacesuits that were built in Texas utilizing our aerospace industrial base.

The passage of HB 3447 will undoubtedly continue to demonstrate to the nation, and the world, that the road to space leads through Texas. We are most appreciative of all the work that has already been done to support the space industry in Texas and we look forward to continuing to work with you for final passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Suffredini

President and CEO

Axiom Space

Mark Jarecki

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I am opposed to HB 2367 and HB 2789. Please stand up for Texas resident homeowners by opposing these proposed bills. Don't mess with Texas Neighborhoods!

Also don't subsidize Elon Musk

Cindy DeWease
Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
Houston, TX

A RESOLUTION FROM THE
CLEAR LAKE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

REGARDING SUPPORT FOR HB 3447

relating to the creation, management and administration of the Texas Space Commission and the Texas Aerospace Research and Space Economy Consortium.

WHEREAS, the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce's mission is to be "Champions for business success and quality of life in our community," and represents municipalities in Harris and Galveston Counties that are historically linked to America's preeminence in space and have over 60 years' experience in spaceflight, space exploration, workforce development, and space research; and

WHEREAS, the NASA-Johnson Space Center, which resides in our service region, is the epicenter of Texas' and America's space contributions, economic impact and growth, and global recognition for space achievement, including, but not limited to, the burgeoning domains of space commercialization, hypersonic travel, and space militarization; and

WHEREAS, the Houston metropolitan area and the Clear Lake Bay Area Houston region hosts Texas' largest concentration of aviation and aerospace companies, including recognizing the importance of space to Texas' future through support of the Houston Spaceport; and

WHEREAS, other nations and other U.S. states have coordinated, funded, and aggressively pursued opportunities to expand their space presence, while Texas has limited its activities to local and ad hoc initiatives; and

WHEREAS, HB 3447 recognizes the importance of the space economy for the future of Texas' economic vitality and growth; and

WHEREAS, HB 3447 effectively addresses Texas' need for a statewide infrastructure for space-related activities and proposes a viable path forward for a coordinated approach to meet the challenges of future human exploration, research and development of space to benefit mankind.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

The Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce enthusiastically supports HB 3447 and encourages the Texas Legislature and Governor Abbot to pass, fund and implement the act.

SIGNED AND DATED:

J. P. Morris, Chairman of the Board
March 21, 2023

Cindy H. DeWease, President/CEO
March 21, 2023

Scott D. Livingston

Self (Professional, Certified Economic Developer with 20+ years of experience)

League City, TX

I support this bill because it will provide an opportunity for the State of Texas, as well as communities and stakeholders in Texas, to compete for business and investment to be at the forefront of the new frontier to commercialize, explore, and make new, technological advances. Collaborative research and investment between governmental institutions like, but not limited to, NASA, the Texas Space Commission, U.S. Dept. of Energy, U.S. Dept. of Defense, DARPA etc. -- and private companies and non-profit organizations will very likely accelerate the discovery of new, technological innovations that will significantly expand Texas' Space Economy and create an extraordinary economic and financial impact in Texas and the USA. These same, new technological innovations and advances will very likely result in providing countless numbers of high quality, high paying jobs and strengthen the USA's strategic political, defense, and economic interests for generations.

Sassie Duggleby, Co-Founder

Venus Aerospace

Houston, TX

On behalf of Venus Aerospace, a hypersonic company headquartered in Houston, Texas, we applaud the leadership of Rep. Bonnen to advance HB 3447 that will establish the Texas Space Commission and the Texas Aerospace Research and Space Economy Consortium.

Texas provides the perfect ecosystem of infrastructure, talent, capital, and entrepreneurial spirit to accelerate the development, test, evaluation, and fielding of hypersonic capabilities. The Texas Space Commission goal to advance and promote innovation across commercial aerospace opportunities, including hypersonic, will greatly benefit the growth of future hypersonic technology investments in Texas. Hypersonics are ranked as one of the top priorities for the Department of Defense with annual unclassified defense spending requests for hypersonic technology already more than \$2.6 billion, with a 26% CAGR since 2014, and expected to grow to \$5 billion by 2025.

From a commercial perspective, since the Concorde was introduced in 1976, high-speed travel has appealed to long-haul commercial passenger carriers and private aviation. By 2035, there will be over 8 billion global commercial passengers creating a potential market size of over \$200B annually with US commercial carriers. Texas is poised to be the leader in hypersonic technology for the greater allied world, creating jobs, economic opportunity, and capturing an entirely new market in the greater aerospace industry.

Cathie Locetta

Faith Votes - Community Action Team @ Grace Woodlands Church - Leader

The Woodlands, TX

We need a definition of broadband. Is it wired or wireless? We pay for wired telecom. Give us what we pay for. We don't need driverless cars and smart cities. Why is there no definition of broadband in bills pertaining to broadband? As of 2019 Texas has paid well over 7 billion dollars for wired technology, and we are still paying for it. It is safer, faster, more secure!

Robert Byers

Self - Retired

Spring, TX

What exactly is the specific definition of "Broadband?" Why exactly are Texas lawmakers pushing broadband? Can you "guarantee" this wireless system is not vulnerable? Is this truly in the best interest for our citizenry? Do please also note the staggering estimated overcharged amounts by AT&T, Verizon, & Century Link: Overcharged America – The IRREGULATORS | An Independent, Expert Telecom Team.

Bill Kelly
Mayor's Office, City of Houston
Houston, TX
March 28, 2023

Rep. Greg Bonnen
Chairman, Texas House Appropriations Committee
Room E2.502
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

RE: Support for HB 3447 Establishing the Texas Space Commission and Texas Aerospace Research & Space Consortium

Dear Chairman Bonnen:

The City of Houston is in support of HB 3447 which would establish the Texas Space Commission (TSC) and Texas Aerospace Research & Space Consortium (TARSEC).

Houston is known as “Space City” for many reasons. It was in Houston that John F. Kennedy challenged America to go to the Moon and undertake other laudable challenges precisely because they were hard; it was in Houston that NASA established the Manned Space Flight Center (later Johnson Space Center) to propel mankind into a space unknown; and it was in Houston that astronauts, engineers, and scientists traveled continuously into that space unknown to explore, discover and study the cosmos to impact and enhance life on earth.

It is in Houston that the 10th commercial spaceport is spurring Texas economic development into a new frontier; it is in Houston that Axiom Space is creating the next generation space suit that will take man back to the Moon, this time to stay; and it is in Houston that Rice University, Texas Southern University, Texas A&M University, and the University of Houston – Clear Lake are leading the way in the next phase of space research, creating the ecosystem in which business and academia will work together. Most importantly, it will be in Houston, Texas, that space leadership is maintained and expanded for our great country.

HB 3447 will provide the resources needed to continue in that tradition of leadership. The proposed authorities of the Texas Space Commission are essential to this effort, specifically including the ability to provide financial services, create intergovernmental agreements, implement aerospace-related educational opportunities, and develop a strategic plan to promote space, aeronautics, and aviation economic development in Texas. The Space Exploration and Aeronautics Research Fund will also be an invaluable resource as Houston businesses continue to develop emerging technologies around space operations, Houston universities conduct cutting-edge research into space exploration and spaceflight, and Houston community colleges, technical schools, and other partner organizations create and implement workforce development training to connect our residents with the stars.

We appreciate the leadership of Chairman Bonnen on the issue of space exploration and development, particularly as it pertains to the role of the City of Houston and the State of Texas in these ventures. The City of Houston fully supports passage of HB 3447, and we would be glad to provide additional evidence of the need for the entities created by it. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance in these efforts.

Sincerely,

Gwendolyn Tillotson-Bell
Deputy Director, Economic Development Office
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William Weber
Firefly Aerospace
Cedar Park, TX

Dear Chairman Hunter,

On behalf of Firefly Aerospace, with headquarters in Cedar Park, Texas I am writing to support H.R. 3447 and the proposal to create a Texas Space Commission in recognition of the strategic value of the space industry to Texas. The innovations currently underway in Texas by Firefly – if decisively fostered – will allow our state to capture a significant share of the forecasted \$1 trillion in revenue by 2040 for the space industry.

Firefly is a Texas-founded, Texas-based, and Texas-proud organization of more than 550 employees - well on our way to 725 this year and to 1,000 by 2025. Firefly is the only new space company offering launch, lunar exploration, in-space, and end-to-end transportation services today. Our Alpha rocket reached orbit on October 1, 2022 on only our second attempt. In true Texas fashion, nobody has ever achieved that milestone faster than Firefly. We were granted a \$17.6 million U.S. Space Force contract for a tactically responsive space “Victus Nox” mission, which demonstrates how Firefly can play a critical role in national security. We have been awarded two NASA Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) contracts valued at over \$212 million and our Blue Ghost lander is scheduled to carry a suite of ten NASA payloads to the Moon’s surface in 2024 and additional payloads in 2026.

Firefly is one of the pioneers of a growing ecosystem of space industry companies in Texas that have much to contribute to decision-making that can foster the Space Economy in Texas. Our perspective is often aligned with that of larger and more-established companies, but we offer unique insights about the policy decisions that can support smaller and faster-growing companies.

We recommend that the Texas Space Commission implement a process dedicated to obtaining the insights and perspectives of the broader space industry in Texas. We believe it will be effective to create a board of industry advisors that the Commission engages on a regular basis. Firefly would be honored to serve the Commission and the State of Texas in such a capacity.

We also recommend that H.B. 3447 include investment in the Spaceport Trust Fund (STF), the grant program supporting Texas infrastructure projects that has shown a considerable return on investment. We respectfully request that the Committee restore funding to the STF within the state budget as part of the Governor’s Economic Development Office and allow this critical tool to continue to make Texas a success story for all space operators in Texas, regardless of size.

Firefly strongly supports H.B. 3447. We are optimistic about the future of space exploration and technology and we chose Texas because we are excited about the role of Texans in the future of America’s space industry. Texas has a long history of leading the nation and Firefly would welcome the opportunity to serve the Texas Space Commission.

Sincerely,
Bill Weber
Chief Executive Officer
Firefly Aerospace

Mark Gittleman
Aegis Aerospace, Inc.
Houston, TX

Aegis Aerospace, a woman-owned small business in Houston, TX, strongly supports the proposed legislation (HB 3447 by Bonnen) to create the Texas Space Commission and the Texas Aerospace Research and Space Economy Consortium. Texas has an opportunity to lead the world in space exploration and the resulting economic impact, but other states are competing for that role. The proposed legislation will help ensure that Texas and Texans benefit from the growing investment in space exploration, commercial applications, and the use of space in defending America.

Jack Fischer, Colonel (Ret)

Intuitive Machines

Houston, TX

I would like to voice my strongest possible support for HB 3447, sponsored by Representative Bonnen.

This bill is the embodiment of Texas' future in the space industry, and the Next Giant Leap for humanity.

I served 28 years in the military – flying, fighting in, and testing aircraft, serving as an astronaut, and most recently as a senior leader during the formation of the Space Force. Now as a commercial space executive at Houston-based Intuitive Machines, I have a rare perspective of having seen the space industry from every angle – civil, commercial and military – and I find this moment in history incredibly unique.

We stand at a precipice of sorts, looking out on the limitless potential of a flourishing space economy, the likes of which the world has never seen. If Texas is to have a role in the future of space, it needs the Texas Space Commission (TSC) to ignite a fusion of purpose and resources across the state, and in doing so – drive inspiration, prosperity and growth for all Texans.

While the TSC will also drive inspiration and education, I'd like to focus on that “fusion of purpose,” and how through supporting space technology, infrastructure, companies and projects, the TSC will play a key role in the larger symphony of Texas efforts to establish us as THE center of the future space economy.

The modern digital society affords us the opportunity to synergize geographically separated resources and infrastructure – and nowhere is that “fusion” more advantageous than distributed resources and industries of Texas.

TSC leadership can provide expensive segments of a shared infrastructure across the state that enables rapid prototype design, development, test and operation of space systems. The TSC can remove economic barriers to progress for businesses, help to guide the flow of NASA exploration for our nation, and afford us collisions of creativity, opportunity and synergy across industries, creating a singularly distinctive and internationally recognized space ecosystem to attract business and talent, and a powerful catalyst for the Texan economic engine.

The competition however, both domestically and internationally - have all aggressively targeted the space industry with a wide range of incentives and infrastructure improvements to encourage industry growth in their areas. Texas no longer has the luxury of waiting - we must engage now - activating under the fusion of purpose provided by the TSC or risk being left behind in a multi-trillion-dollar space economy over the next decades.

JFK's words still speak to us, some 60 years later.

“...this State of Texas, this country of the United States was not built by those who waited and rested and wished to look behind them, ...[but] by those who moved forward--and so will... the coming age of space. We mean to be a part of it--we mean to lead it.”

It's time to lead, Texas. The Next Giant Leap, starts in Texas today with the passage of HB 3447.

Michael Wood

self - aerospace engineering manager

Dickinson, TX

I fully support this bill. For Texas to retain a leadership role in human spaceflight exploration and to be able to compete with other states and territories, it is important that these bodies be created in order to manage the necessary projects and incentives for space exploration, industries and agencies in Texas.

Tim Kropp

Mathematical Research Inc dba MRI Technologies

League City, TX

This bill provides the platform for Texas to become the National leader in the Space Economy. Having the Texas Space Commission and Texas Aerospace Research and Space Economy Consortium allow Texas to bring the resources across our great state together to create and build on the Space Economy and the jobs, research and technologies that come with it. As Texas is considered the Energy capital of the world, there is no reason not to also add Space Economy Capital of the world. I thank the authors of the bill for their foresight. This bill, when passed, can create the pathways necessary for education and business to create together. Lets Go to the moon and beyond Texas and bring the world with us!