



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

June 6, 2025

The Honorable John Cornyn
U.S. Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz
U.S. Senate
167 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn and Senator Cruz,

I am writing to express my strong support for your bill, the Bring the Space Shuttle Home Act (S. 1403). Space Shuttle Discovery belongs back home in Texas, at NASA's Johnson Space Center (JSC) in Houston.

Over the history of manned spaceflight, JSC and "Space City" Houston have served as the home of astronaut training and Mission Control. In its early days, JSC led the Gemini, Apollo, Apollo-Soyuz, and Skylab projects. JSC was then home to the Space Shuttle Program during its entire span, from 1981 to 2011, and now leads International Space Station operations and missions, as well as development of the Orion spacecraft and Gateway outpost program. Today, Texas is also the national leader of the U.S. space industry; those who reach for the stars do so from our great state.

I was proud to announce the launch of the Texas Space Commission (TSC) last year at JSC in Houston, where I introduced the inaugural governing board of directors, as well as an advisory committee, the Texas Aerospace Research & Space Economy Consortium (TARSEC). TSC and TARSEC appointees include former astronauts, former NASA program directors, a former Secretary of the Air Force, military veterans, academicians, small business owners, private equity funders, and private business executives. Together, these subject-matter experts are working to secure the future of American spaceflight for the generations of Texas explorers yet to come.

There is no better final home for Space Shuttle Discovery than JSC, where these explorers of tomorrow can learn from and be inspired by the incredible legacy of those who changed the history of the world in Houston, where giant leaps in human spaceflight started.

Texas played such an integral role in our nation's Space Shuttle Program; it was an injustice that Houston has never received a retired space shuttle.

Now, we have an opportunity to right this wrong. I urge you both to continue the fight. Bring the Space Shuttle Discovery back home where it belongs: Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "G" and "A".

Greg Abbott
Governor