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Subject: **Polis Secures \$2 Million for eSpace: The Center for Space Entrepreneurship in Louisville**



Congressman

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Polis Secures \$2 Million for eSpace: The Center for Space Entrepreneurship in Louisville

WASHINGTON—U.S. Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO) announced today that he has secured approval by the House of Representatives of \$2 million in the Fiscal Year 2010 Department of Defense (DoD) Appropriations bill for eSpace: The Center for Space Entrepreneurship in Louisville, CO to create a vital community of entrepreneurial space companies that will provide significant

contributions to the DoD's aerospace mission.

“Colorado has a long-history of leadership in the space industry and developing a thriving entrepreneurial space community is a great way to fuel our aerospace economy,” said Polis. “Through their educational outreach, eSpace instills future generations with the interest and skills needed to ensure that our nation remains the world leader in space industry. I am proud to join Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien in promoting eSpace, whose work is essential to the success of our nation's space program.”

“The eSpace Center for Entrepreneurship is an innovative approach to helping new companies prosper, partnering with the University of Colorado engineers and students, and helps to grow a critical part of the state's economy. I applaud Rep. Polis' effort to bolster the entrepreneurial spirit and bolster the future of small aerospace companies,” said Lt. Gov. Barbara O'Brien, co-chair of the Colorado Space Coalition.

eSpace: The Center for Space Entrepreneurship is a non-profit initiative supported by the University of Colorado, Sierra Nevada Corporation's Space Systems Group, a Denver Metro WIRED Initiative grant, the Denver Metro Economic Development Corporation, and the U.S. Air Force Research Lab to develop and catalyze entrepreneurial space companies, to commercialize their technologies, and to develop a highly skilled workforce to fuel their growth. The funding, requested by Congressman Polis, will allow eSpace to:

- 1) Build an industry/university research partnership to develop and commercialize viable space technologies;
- 2) Accelerate the creation and development of entrepreneurial space companies in aerospace-intensive regions of the country;
- 3) Establish a collaborative industry/university curriculum to prepare high school, community college, and university students for working in the aerospace industry either as technicians or

scientists.

“Entrepreneurial space companies have been an underappreciated but critical national resource. Not only are they creating the innovations that are transforming how we get to, explore, and utilize space, but they are developing a passionate, entrepreneurial aerospace workforce that will carry us into the next century” said Scott Tibbitts, the Executive Director of eSpace. “We are excited about this opportunity as this support will enable eSpace to further this important national resource and help to establish the Rocky Mountain region as the “Silicon Valley” of entrepreneurial space.”

The Fiscal Year 2010 Defense Appropriations bill must also receive approval of the U.S. Senate before being sent to the White House to be signed into law.

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