

March 31, 2008

Mr. Mario Buscacca
Environmental Program Office
Mail Code TA-C3
Kennedy Space Center, FL. 32899

RE: Proposed Commercial Vertical Launch Complex

Dear Mr. Buscacca,

Coastal Conservation Association of Florida is a grassroots volunteer organization whose members are conservation-minded saltwater recreational fishers. We have actively promoted and supported marine resource conservation and angler access protection for 23 years.

On behalf of our 10,000+ Florida members, we enclose comments and recommendations for the proposed commercial launch complex at the John F. Kennedy Space Center. As you will see we have strong objections to both proposed alternatives. The Mosquito Lagoon and Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge areas are premier destinations in Florida's six billion dollar saltwater recreational fishery. Florida's recreational fishery is one of the major economic engines driving Florida's tourist economy. These natural, pristine areas are also home to many threatened and endangered wildlife species.

Essential habitat and critical estuarine areas should not be destroyed when other existing and abandoned launch sites exist in the area. We oppose both alternative 1 and alternative 2 and urge NASA and the U.S. Air Force to work cooperatively to use existing and abandoned launch sites.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment and request that you keep us notified about subsequent actions, as this is an extremely important issue to our members.

Sincerely,

Ted Forsgren
Executive Director

Enclosed: CCA Florida Comments and Recommendations