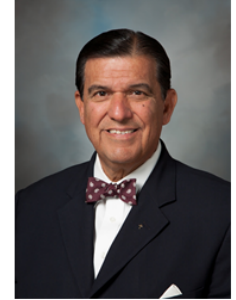




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**Senator Lucio statement responding to announcement of
SpaceX site in Cameron County**

AUSTIN - Today (Monday), Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) releases the following statement responding to the official announcement by Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, or SpaceX, that it will locate a private commercial space launch site at Boca Chica Beach in Cameron County.

As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, Sen. Lucio worked with the Governor's office to [allocate up to \\$15 million in the state's budget](#), contingent upon SpaceX locating a spaceport in Texas. Sen. Lucio was also the [Senate sponsor for House Bill 2623 by Rep. Rene Oliveira](#), which ensures the public's right to beach access while also providing a way to protect public safety during SpaceX launches.

Senator Lucio's statement follows:

"I couldn't be happier about today's announcement, nor more excited about the possibilities this new Texas partnership with SpaceX will produce. SpaceX's future launch site will soon become an invaluable economic driver for South Texas. With this site comes tens of millions of dollars in capital investment in our community annually, and hundreds of well-paying jobs over the next decade. We've set up South Texas as a future leader in developing bleeding-edge space technology which will influence future commerce for the whole planet.

"Working with my fellow delegation members to support legislation to attract SpaceX to Texas was one of my proudest achievements of the last legislative session. Since then, I have continued to work as a liaison between the Governor's office and our local officials to ensure we continued to make the best case for the company locating to Texas. Today, after years of work from our local elected officials and economic development corporations, and then months of waiting with bated breath for FAA clearance, finally, the Rio Grande Valley has been guaranteed its space port.

"I hope the new launch site will propel a dramatic culture change in our region of the state, encouraging more of our children to pursue careers in engineering and science. Future generation of South Texas residents will look to this site and know that not even the sky is the limit for where their dreams may take them."

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