



**WASHINGTON
AEROSPACE
PARTNERSHIP**

Comments on Boeing Purchase of Vought Aircraft Industries, South Carolina Plant

This is not a time for hand-wringing, blame or regrets. It's a time for us to buckle down, roll up our sleeves and show that Washington state is determined to remain the aerospace capital of the world.

Washington has tremendous advantages – including the highest skilled aerospace workforce in the world with a proven track record of efficiently producing quality aircraft. We have the aerospace factories, the research labs and a 600-plus network of in-state suppliers. And we have an overall state “business climate” that Forbes Magazine ranked third best in the nation last year.

We need to continue to invest in our people and our region to remain competitive.

We appreciate Boeing's need to keep options open and make long range business decisions, but we are confident that Washington's long term commitment to aerospace, unprecedented investments in roads and mobility, and our stable political environment make us a very competitive partner for Boeing.

The Washington Aerospace Partnership is working to improve our region's competitiveness as a manufacturing center. Our agenda includes getting business, labor, government and education working on a common aerospace agenda; further improving the business climate; and advocating for investments in education and transportation.

Aerospace is a bright spot in this terrible economy. Washington state needs to stay focused on the opportunities ahead – on being the best place for Boeing to build the 180 mid-air refueling tankers and the next-generation of commercial aircraft.