

August 24, 2009

TO: Washington Cities, Counties, Community Organizations and Businesses

RE: Washington Aerospace Partnership

We all know the important contributions of the aerospace industry to the quality of life in the State of Washington. We may need to remind ourselves of its importance to our economic well-being and understand the opportunities and threats on the horizon for this global industry:

- Aerospace is a huge economic engine in the State of Washington with 650 companies; 210,000 direct and indirect jobs; and, \$36 billion (or, 15%) of the State gross product.
- According to a 2009 Deloitte study, the aerospace cluster is “at risk” in the State of Washington because of domestic and international competitors.
- The economic consequences for the State of Washington not maintaining and growing this industry cluster would be dire.

Leaders from across the State are mobilizing. One statewide grassroots effort – the Washington Aerospace Partnership (WAP) – has been organized to speak for all six million plus citizens in Washington ensuring that we remain the aerospace capital of the world. WAP is an advocacy organization supporting the growth of this cluster; its immediate objectives are to (1) secure the Air Force Tanker project for Washington State and US workers, and (2) ensure that future 787 work is done in the State of Washington. The Partnership already consists of over 100 business, government and labor organizations from Everett to Vancouver to Spokane.

In recognition of the importance of this matter for all Washingtonians, economic development organizations from throughout the State formally endorse the Washington Aerospace Partnership objectives and urge all community organizations to visit its website – [www.washington-aerospace.com](http://www.washington-aerospace.com) – and become actively involved. A lot is at stake!



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Deborah Knutson  
Snohomish County Economic Development Council



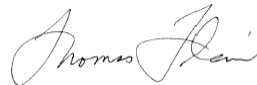
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Jeff Severs  
Greater Spokane Inc.



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Bart Phillips  
Columbia River Economic Development Development Council



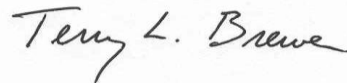
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Tom Flavin  
enterpriseSeattle



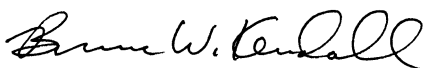
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David McFadden  
New Vision-Yakima County Development Association



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Terry Brewer  
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Bruce Kendall  
Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County



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Bill Stewart  
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