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California State Senate

SENATOR
RODERICK D. WRIGHT
TWENTY-FIFTH SENATE DISTRICT

Representing the Communities of Alondra Park, Athens, Compton, Gardena, Florence-Graham, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Ladera Heights, Lawndale, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Palos Verdes Peninsula, San Pedro, Watts, Westchester, Westmont, and Willowbrook



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September 23, 2009

Ms. Jean Chamberlin
Vice President & General Manager
Global Mobility Systems
2401 East Wardlow Road
Long Beach, CA 90807

Re: U.S. Senate committee approval of ten C17 aircraft

Dear Ms. Chamberlin:

It is my pleasure to congratulate **THE BOEING COMPANY** on word that the **UNITED STATES SENATE DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE** has added funding to the 2010 fiscal year budget to pay for the purchase of ten additional C17 Globemaster aircraft. It is my sincere hope that this action will be upheld within the Senate as a whole and sustained by members of the conference committee.

In July 2001, then Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, in announcing results of a *full force review*, declared that the military was "a division down and short on airlift." In the intervening eight years, American forces have been stretched thin in all ways and on all fronts, including the ability rapidly move troops, supplies and humanitarian aid with an existing airlift fleet whose very foundation is the C17.

If the United States is to prevail over the challenges of the 21st century, then the C17 will only grow in importance to our military, disaster response and international development leaders. I see the decision by Senators to add ten more aircraft as recognition that the C17 is a lynchpin to our nation's rapid response capability. These aircraft give us the ability to introduce, supply, sustain and evacuate American forces or provide humanitarian aide with greater power and flexibility than any tool in our national arsenal.

I support the actions of Senators to add these ten planes to the defense appropriations bill and fervently hope lawmakers send this to the President for his signature.

Sincerely,

RODERICK D. WRIGHT
Senator, 25th District

cc: Dianne Feinstein, Barbara Boxer, Maxine Waters, Laura Richardson, Dana Rohrabacher, Jane Harman