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REC-2, FD PAP

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

October 4, 2001

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to address a critical matter of economic urgency that has a direct impact on the State of Washington as well as the entire nation at this critical time. The crisis situation that has affected all of the U.S. airlines since September 11th has had a dramatically negative impact on the nation's sole commercial airframe manufacturer, the Boeing Company. In late September, the company announced that it was anticipating the loss of 20,000 to 30,000 jobs in the near term, following the cancellation of orders for aircraft that Boeing is currently producing or expecting to produce. While we have promptly approved legislation that provides direct assistance to U.S. airlines, providing critical financial stability at this time, we have thus far not addressed the downstream impacts of this crisis, including the loss of work at Boeing.

In this regard, I believe it is both appropriate and necessary to consider ways to boost the aircraft manufacturing sector as we assemble the economic stimulus package that you proposed on Oct. 3 in New York City. At this time, we have a unique opportunity to address the problems affecting Boeing while also meeting urgent requirements to modernize Air Force and Navy aircraft. My colleagues and I on the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee are currently considering a proposal for replacement of the Air Force's oldest tanker aircraft, now averaging 43 years of age, as well as filling the requirement for the Navy's C-40 cargo and transport aircraft. Our effort on the tankers represents an acceleration of the Air Force's plan to establish a "common widebody" platform for tankers and other military uses, and it utilizes the fuel-efficient Boeing 767 airframe. The Navy is currently replacing its C-9 aircraft with C-40s (Boeing 737 airframes), and our effort in Congress would substantially accelerate that upgrade.

Because of the direct and immediate impact on maintaining and creating American jobs, I believe that the Administration's economic stimulus package should include at least \$2.5 billion for the purchase or lease of these aircraft in the Defense Department's portion of this legislation.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norm Dicks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N" and a long, sweeping underline.

NORM DICKS

Member of Congress