

August 12, 2014

Senator Roth State Capitol, Room 4034 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 718 (Roth) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Roth:

On behalf of the SoCal Jobs Defense Council, a network of Southern California-based organizations and leaders from the business, labor, education, nonprofit, and public sectors dedicated to protecting the hundreds of thousands of workers, countless families, and entire communities throughout the region and state, we are pleased to offer our support for Senate Bill (SB) 718. We believe SB 718, which provides equal access to the economic incentive provided under Assembly Bill (AB) 2389 to prime and subcontractors, will greatly enhance California's competitive position for the Advanced Strategic Aircraft Program and send a message that California cares deeply about the solvency and growth of its aerospace industry.

As you know, the aerospace industry has a long and rich history in Southern California. This extremely diversified industry is comprised of small, medium and large enterprises that manufacture aircraft (civil and military), missiles, satellites and other space vehicles, as well as the businesses that manufacture and distribute parts and components. The state's aerospace industry directly supports about 140,000 high-paying, high-skill jobs. More than 88,000 of those jobs are located in Southern California.

However, we must always remember that in today's global economy, location is not permanent, but by choice. Companies – especially those that would avail themselves of the economic incentives offered in AB 2389 and now with SB 718– have many opportunities to locate outside of California. We have to be ready as a state to make that choice easier for them to locate, innovate, produce, and expand here. And while we fully understand that one program is in no way a panacea to save an industry, it is a small step in the right direction to help us attract new companies as well as grow next-generation aerospace businesses.

For all of the reasons mentioned above, we proudly submit our support of SB 718—a critical piece of legislation to improve the competitiveness of California for aerospace and defense companies and contracts.

Sincerely,

Vicki Medina

Executive Director

Antelope Valley Board of Trade

Malee Medena

David Flaks, Chief Operating

Officer

Los Angeles County Economic

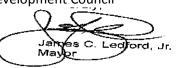
Development Corporation

Mark Cafferty President/CEO

San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation



Jo Marie Diamond President/CEO San Diego East County Economic Development Council



James C. Leford, Mayor of City of Palmdale

Brent D. Page Government Liaison Adecco Government

Chris Powell Founder Industrial Interface Inc.

Tracy Rafter BizFed Founding CEO IMPOWER, Inc.

Mehrdad Sharbaf

Dr. Mehrdad S. Sharbaf Adjunct Professor, Chair IEEE Coastal Los Angeles Section, Chair CLAS IEEE Computer Society Chapter Loyola Marymount University Sugarne Flentes

Mayor Suzanne Fuentes City of El Segundo

He

Holly Schroeder, President and CEO of Santa Clarita Valley Economic Development Corporation (SCVEDC)

Par Peller

Paul De La Cerda Dean, Economic & Workforce Development East Los Angeles College

David J. Blanco President Performance Ascent, Inc.

Kellie Johnson
President, ACE Clearwater
Enterprises

Halston Howard, Program Manager Jackson Aerospace

Cynthia Kurtz President & CEO

San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership

Dr. David Viar Superintendent/President Glendale Community College

Kimberly Maevers
President

Greater Antelope Valley Economic Alliance

Ivan Rosenberg

Aerospace & Defense Forum

