



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,

Handwritten signature of Vicki Medina in black ink.

Vicki Medina  
Executive Director  
Antelope Valley Board of Trade

Handwritten signature of David Flaks in black ink.

David Flaks, Chief Operating  
Officer  
Los Angeles County Economic  
Development Corporation

Handwritten signature of Mark Cafferty in black ink.

Mark Cafferty  
President/CEO  
San Diego Regional Economic  
Development Corporation



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

Mayor Suzanne Fuentes  
City of El Segundo

Halston Howard, Program  
Manager Jackson Aerospace

James C. Leford, Mayor of City of  
Palmdale

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

Cynthia Kurtz  
President & CEO  
San Gabriel Valley Economic  
Partnership

Brent D. Page  
Government Liaison  
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Kellie Johnson  
President, ACE Clearwater  
Enterprises

Ivan Rosenberg  
Aerospace & Defense Forum

**Mehrdad Sharbaf**

Dr. Mehrdad S. Sharbaf  
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