



TERRY E. BRANSTAD  
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KIM REYNOLDS  
LT. GOVERNOR

February 1, 2011

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates  
1400 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Gates,

It is essential to continuously pursue opportunities that will stimulate our economy and create new jobs in order for our country to grow and prosper. Over the past few years, Iowa and the nation as a whole, has struggled to overcome a weakened economy and increasing unemployment. As Governor of Iowa, my administration will be dedicated to improving the quality of lives for those I represent.

I am writing to you today to voice my strong support for the Boeing Company as the recipient of the Department of Defense contract to rebuild the U.S. Air Force's fleet of aerial refueling supertankers. This project will provide Americans with an economic boost and ensure job creation when needed most.

Boeing employs over 155,000 people in the U.S., supports more than 21,000 suppliers, and provides 1.2 million additional supplier-related jobs in 50 states. In addition, a recent study reported if Boeing were to receive this contract, over 60,000 U.S. jobs would be created.

As Governor of Iowa, my duty will be to constantly pursue opportunities in the best interest of this state. As such, I strongly encourage the Department of Defense to partner with the Boeing Company to rebuild the Air Force's fleet of aerial refueling supertankers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry E. Branstad".

Governor Terry E. Branstad