

Dear [[Official's Title and Name]]:

Last May the World Trade Organization appellate body affirmed an earlier ruling that European governments have been violating international trade rules to advance the interests of Airbus at the expense of America's aerospace workers. The WTO ruled against a total of \$18 billion of subsidies to Airbus, including \$15 billion of product-development launch aid. The WTO found every instance of launch aid illegal, establishing a clear principal on the launch aid issue.

This strong and clear final ruling against the massive sums of money received by Airbus from European governments started a six month WTO compliance clock which ended on Dec. 1. Airbus has had more than enough time to comply with the WTO's ruling, which was six plus years in the making. We urge you to hold Airbus and its sponsor governments accountable and insist that they demonstrate their compliance with the WTO's final decision.

There are troubling signs that Airbus and European governments may not be taking this landmark ruling seriously. European governments have pledged some \$4.5 billion for the next Airbus product – the A350 – and the EADS/Airbus financial statement for 2010 documented the receipt of \$1.3-1.4 billion in new government loans, "including loans for the A350," without disclosing the terms and conditions of those loans.

Illegal subsidies directly impact the U.S. industrial base and provide unfair competition to new and innovative products such as Boeing's 787. Aerospace products are America's leading manufactured export. If we do not stop illegal European launch aid subsidies to Airbus, American workers will suffer the consequences.

I urge you to tell the White House and your congressional colleagues that strong enforcement of international trade agreements is important to you and your constituents. Ensure that the U.S. Trade Representative considers all available options under WTO rules, including sanctions if necessary, to get European governments to comply with the WTO's final ruling against Airbus subsidies. Now that the time is up, we must insist on full compliance with the WTO's ruling and an end to such pernicious practices as launch aid.

At such a critical time for our country we need to stand up to people who knowingly violate the rules of international trade. America can compete in today's global market, but only if we have a level playing field.

Sincerely,