

CALIFORNIA CHAMBER of COMMERCE

ALLAN ZAREMBERG
President and Chief Executive Officer



January 23, 2009

Congresswoman Jane Harman
2400 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

SUBJECT: F-22 Raptor Program

The words "economic stimulus" are on the lips of many state policymakers, media members, business owners, and workers these days. With the California economy showing increased signs of weakness, the need for all of us to work together to protect jobs is critical. I am writing today to seek your **strong support** of continued funding for the F-22 Raptor fighter aircraft contract to protect both our national security and California jobs.

While Congress debates different ways to help our nation's economy, President Obama can make an easy decision that will help California's economy without costing any new taxpayer dollars—approve funding for the continued development of the F-22 aircraft. In California alone, there are more than 260 suppliers providing nearly 15,000 direct jobs with an annual \$500 million impact to the state's economy.

A delay for funding means that thousands of jobs in California would be lost. We know the kind of economic devastation that resulted in many of our communities when we went through the military base closures in the 1990s. Any interruption in the production of the F-22 aircraft would produce similar job loss and economic hardship.

At a time when many other industries are cutting jobs or slashing wages, it would be a disaster to see these high-paying jobs disappear from our state, especially when it would be so easy to save them. California workers employed by the F-22 aircraft program would be left with few other options, and the community businesses that depend on their patronage would be severely hurt. And, of course, our state government—already groaning under a record deficit—cannot afford to see the additional loss of tax revenue.

It is my hope you share the concerns of California's business community with President Obama regarding the F-22 Raptor program. Our nation's military needs these F-22 fighters and our state's workers need the jobs this program provides. **Please encourage** President Obama to act in the best interest of jobs, the economy and national security by authorizing the F-22 aircraft funding.

Sincerely,

Allan Zaremborg
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