

October 28, 2009

Machinists Statement Regarding Boeing Announcement

IAM President Tom Buffenbarger issued the following statement regarding Boeing's announcement today that a new 787 assembly line would be built in South Carolina:

“South Carolina, here we come,” is the signal Boeing's CEO Jim McNerney has conveyed for months. Corporate decisions like this are years in the making. And this one is no different.

Until the last minute, corporate executives feign indecision in an effort to dodge responsibility and to try and squeeze the last drops of goodwill out of a community that is losing a part of its legacy and, more important, its employment base.

Not so long ago, the Boeing Company went through the same charade before moving its corporate headquarters to Chicago. And more than a decade ago, they played fast and loose with the truth before moving maintenance operations from Washington to Texas.

Yes, it is with deep suspicion that the Machinists Union views their calls for a no-strike clause. Corporate credibility is zero these days.

It wasn't the Machinists who created a supply chain with so many weak links. Boeing's management did, and did so over our objections. It wasn't the Machinists who approved a deeply flawed Dreamliner design and a nightmare production process. Boeing's management did. And it wasn't the Machinists who turned an American icon into an moral cesspool that needed the U.S. Justice Department to empty and sent a former Boeing CFO to federal prison.

The recent news stories about secret negotiations and concern over possible strikes were planted for a reason. Boeing's management is preparing to lay the blame on their workers for another awful decision.

Isn't it time for Boeing management to own up to the ineptitude and stupidity that has marked their every move in the last decade?

And until they do, the Machinists Union will preserve its right to strike when two-thirds of our members vote to hit the bricks. They, and not Boeing's management, are the best judges of what is in their families best interest.