



President Barack Obama is considering an invitation from IAM President Tom Buffenbarger at the AFL-CIO Convention to visit Wichita, KS, where the aerospace and general aviation industry is reeling from the ongoing recession.

try, this state and this city are struggling.”

Hawker Beechcraft, Cessna Aircraft and Bombardier Learjet laid off more than 12,000 people as orders for business jets fell sharply in the wake of the recession and negative remarks in Congress during hearings to consider aid to the auto industry.

“The Wichita-based business aviation industry is important to the entire nation,” said Buffenbarger. “Not only does it support more than 1.2 million U.S. jobs, but the innovations that come out of that industry are technological drivers that benefit dozens of other industries.”

Obama Weighs Wichita Visit

More than 3,000 delegates, guests and officials delivered a standing ovation when President Obama arrived at the AFL-CIO Convention in Pittsburgh, PA.

At the close of his remarks, IAM President Tom Buffenbarger took the opportunity to extend an invitation to the president to visit Wichita, KS, where thou-

sands of aerospace workers are reeling from the effects of the recession.

“I asked the president to bring Air Force One back to where it was built,” said Buffenbarger. “I promised we’d tune it up, change the oil and clean the windshield. But my main reason is for the president to see firsthand how this indus-

Machinists Fight to Save Connecticut Jobs

The battle to save more than 1,000 high-skill aerospace jobs in Connecticut didn’t end with the September 21 announcement by Pratt & Whitney that it would close a pair of aircraft engine repair facilities in Cheshire and East Hartford, CT.

IAM District 26 immediately filed a lawsuit in federal court to enforce existing contract provisions that require the company to make “every reasonable effort” to preserve the work

in Connecticut.

The IAM lawsuit claims Pratt & Whitney ignored cost-saving proposals from the union valued at more than \$80 million, in addition to \$100 million in tax credits and other incentives offered by the state of Connecticut.

The IAM filed a similar suit in 1999 in a dispute over outsourcing repair work in East Hartford, CT, and won a decision that prevented the work from leaving Connecticut.



Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, center, joined with members of District 26 from Pratt & Whitney, who filed a lawsuit to block the company from closing two plants and cutting more than 1,000 jobs.