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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505

April 23, 2019

Dennis Muilenburg
Chairman, President and CEO
The Boeing Company
100 North Riverside
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Dear Mr. Muilenburg:

I read with great concern *The New York Times*' recent reporting on safety concerns in the 787 Dreamliner production line. I was particularly troubled by the company's repeated practice of ignoring, harassing, or firing employees who raised safety issues during production. Unions play an important role in facilitating employee-management collaboration and adherence to high-quality production standards, which would help to address the shortcomings in the Dreamliner production. As part of your company's efforts to improve the lacking oversight and production quality that have affected the Dreamliner, I urge you to accept card check neutrality for the Boeing employees at the North Charleston plant.

According to the *Times*' investigation, Boeing is well aware of inadequate safety standards at the North Charleston plant. At least one former customer stopped purchasing Dreamliners made at the South Carolina facility. In addition, multiple Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) investigations found "improper tool control," "the presence of foreign object or debris," and instances in which the company had lost damaged parts at the plant. In every case, the FAA's findings corroborated safety concerns raised by employees.

I am concerned that Boeing has not responded appropriately to this evidence that the commitment to safety must be strengthened at the North Charleston plant. Instead of creating a corporate culture where potential safety violations must be reported quickly and processed carefully, multiple former plant employees said they were intimidated, harassed, ignored, or even terminated for raising production quality concerns. Instead of slowing production down to ensure workers have adequate time to meet manufacturing standards, the *Times* reports that Boeing is speeding up the production schedule to 14 Dreamliners a month and is terminating approximately 100 quality control jobs at the North Charleston facility.

I urge Boeing to reconsider your approach to these quality control and safety lapses. Your employees are critical to producing high-quality, safe planes, and they should be included in decisions regarding production quality and timing. Union representation would facilitate a productive exchange between workers and management and would ensure workers are protected from retaliation when they raise concerns about the production process. Your company is well-acquainted with the production quality benefits of a union-represented workforce at your

Washington facilities. I urge you to adopt card check neutrality for all workers at the South Carolina plant as part of your response to the Dreamliners safety concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sherrod Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator