

October 1, 2025

Kelly Ortberg  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Boeing  
929 Long Bridge Drive  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Ortberg:

I am writing to urge you to immediately go back to the negotiating table and bargain in good faith with the 3,200 union Machinists at Boeing in St. Louis who have been on strike against corporate greed for the past nine weeks. As you know, these workers are fighting for a decent contract that reflects the dedication and hard work of Boeing's employees – similar to recent contracts that have been reached with union workers at your company across the country.

It has come to my attention that the Machinists District 837 has sent Boeing a proposal that could end this strike today – a proposal that has the support of 90% of its union members. In my view, this is a very reasonable offer. It includes a fair wage increase, a \$10,000 ratification bonus, and a modest increase in contributions to Boeing's 401(k) plan. Let's be clear. What the Machinists in St. Louis are proposing is not radical. It is not, as you called it "a publicity stunt." In fact, it is less generous than the contract you ratified last year with 32,000 Machinists in Washington state that included a 38% pay raise and a \$12,000 ratification bonus.

I recently met with a number of your striking workers and what they described to me was shocking. Some of your workers told me that they make as little as \$18 an hour and need to work two or three jobs just to make ends meet. Others expressed their deep sense of betrayal that Boeing chose to eliminate their health insurance at the end of August forcing them to spend as much as \$2,500 a month out of their own pockets for health insurance through COBRA – which many of them cannot afford. That is simply unacceptable.

As we all know, five years ago, Dennis Muilenberg, the former CEO of Boeing, received a \$62.2 million golden parachute after 346 people died in two fatal airplane crashes on his watch. Last year, David Calhoun, another former CEO of Boeing, received a golden parachute that was projected to be worth up to \$45 million after he failed on the job. You have received an \$18.4 million compensation package for just four months of work. Over the past decade, Boeing has spent \$68 billion not to improve the safety of your airplanes or to improve the working conditions at your plants, but to buy back its own stock to enrich its wealthy stockholders and executives. This is precisely the type of corporate greed that the American people are sick and tired of.

If Boeing can afford to provide you with \$18.4 million in compensation for just four months of work, it can afford to provide its highly-skilled Machinists with a \$10,000 ratification bonus. If Boeing can afford to provide over \$100 million in golden parachutes to your two previous CEOs who failed at their jobs, it can afford to provide decent retirement benefits to all of the

Machinists at Boeing. If Boeing can afford to spend over \$68 billion in stock buybacks and dividends from 2010 to 2019, it can afford to treat all of its workers with the respect and the dignity they deserve.

As you know, Boeing received \$27.9 billion from U.S. government contracts last year alone and has received more than \$15.5 billion in corporate welfare since 2000. The American people do not want their taxpayer dollars going to large corporations that take health care benefits away from their employees and refuse to negotiate in good faith while providing obscenely high compensation packages to senior executives.

Mr. Ortberg: Do the right thing. Immediately reinstate the health insurance you took away from your workers. Sit down at the negotiating table. Bargain in good faith and consider accepting the very modest proposal approved by your workers. Sign a fair contract with Machinists District 837 that provides better wages, better benefits and safer working conditions for all of your workers.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Bernard Sanders". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bernard" and last name "Sanders" clearly distinguishable.

Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator