

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

President Biden:

On National Manufacturing Day you proclaimed your administration's "commitment to strengthening and supporting the American manufacturers and hardworking manufacturing employees of today as well as the manufacturers and workers of the future." We commend your unyielding support of the American workforce. Defense spending plays a vital role in accelerating our American workforce, and as suppliers to the world's most advanced 5th generation, multi-mission fighter, we urge you to reaffirm your commitment to national defense through an increased investment in the number of F-35 Lightning IIs included in your FY2023 budget request.

More than 1,000 of the 1,800 American supply chain partners on the F-35 program are small businesses like ours – assembling bulkheads, bending tubing, calibrating delicate electronics, and machining metal for the world's most advanced fighter. We invest in training and education to employ workers, many of whom had no prior experience but have been trained on the job or through apprenticeships and are now an integral part of our highly skilled workforce. Our workforce has grown with our company, and love what they do because they have a hand in giving the very best to our warfighters in the field.

Our small business supply chain works diligently to reduce costs associated with production and support of the F-35 Lightning II, and collectively has made the aircraft more affordable than less-capable 4th generation fighters. By supporting an increase in the rate of production, you are affirming your commitment to national security and demonstrating to our hard-working employees your promise to strengthen the future for American workers.

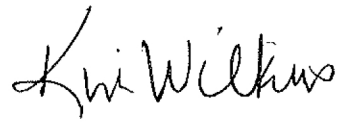
The F-35 program has been a crucial lifeline for the manufacturing industry as we navigated the pandemic, with this program alone generating nearly \$50 billion in annual economic impact and supporting more than 250,000 jobs across the country. Programs like the accelerated payments to small and vulnerable suppliers from Lockheed Martin, powered by the DoD during the pandemic, made it possible for our businesses to remain open and to continue to deliver on our commitments to our customers.

During this time of rising global challenges, it is vital we bolster our armed forces with more F-35s, significantly enhancing the allied joint force. This ensures our men and women in uniform return home safely from their missions defending our freedom. We strongly urge you to increase the annual rate of F-35 production to buy 100 F-35s for our U.S. services each year in your FY2023 Department of Defense budget request and Future Years Defense Plan.

Sincerely,



Bob Burns, President
Aero Bending Company
Palmdale, California



Kim Wilkins, President
Champ Industries
Seymour, Missouri



Zach Mottl, President
Atlas Tool & Die Works Inc.
Lyons, Illinois



Douglas Carlberg, President & CEO
M2 Global Technology, Ltd
San Antonio, Texas



Phil Neale, President
Models & Tools, Inc.
Shelby Township, Michigan



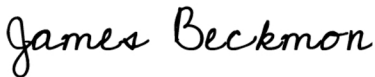
Mundo Harbaugh, President
Mundo-Tech, Inc.
Rogers, Arkansas



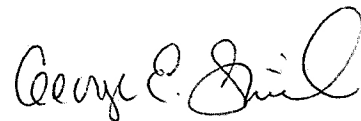
Josh Dirlam, CEO
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