

Gov. M. Jodi Rell
Connecticut

Gov. Charlie Crist
Florida

Gov. Sonny Perdue
Georgia

Gov. Martin O'Malley
Maryland

Gov. Jim Gibbons
Nevada

Gov. John Lynch
New Hampshire

Gov. David A. Paterson
New York

Gov. Ted Strickland
Ohio

Gov. Theodore R. Kulongoski
Oregon

Gov. M. Michael Rounds
South Dakota

Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr.
Utah

Gov. Christine O. Gregoire
Washington

February 20, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We urge you to sustain 95,000 American jobs by certifying continued production of the F-22 Raptor -- a defense program that is critical to our economy, national security, and the U.S. industrial base.

The F-22 program is an important economic engine for thousands of good-paying, high-skill jobs in our states -- jobs that we simply cannot afford to lose over the next two years. Production of the F-22 depends on a network of more than 1,000 aerospace suppliers across 44 states, generating more than \$12 billion in economic activity annually.

As the world's only operational 5th Generation fighter, the F-22 is capable of defeating any enemy aircraft or surface-to-air missile that threatens our forces or our allies. It is the centerpiece of how the U.S. Air Force intends to operate in the future. The Air Force needs more than 183 F-22s to meet these challenges around the globe.

As you assess whether to continue production of the F-22 Raptor, we ask that you consider carefully the potential economic impact of your decision. We believe strongly that continued production of the F-22 furthers the economic and national security interests of the American people.

Respectfully,



Governor M. Jodi Rell
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Governor Charlie Crist
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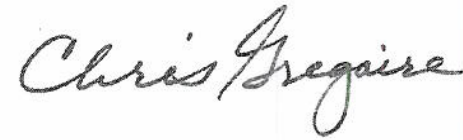

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