Dr. Dennis Muilenburg:

A group of workers at Boeing’s South Carolina facility voted overwhelmingly in favor of unionizing with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) on May 31st, 2018 – nearly a year ago. As policy makers, many of us have already expressed concern in a previous letter about your company’s ongoing refusal to recognize the union in South Carolina, and we write now because we are disappointed to learn that Boeing discharged six union supporters shortly before the holiday season last year. We are unsatisfied with the explanations these workers were given from Boeing for their dismissal, as well as the continued refusal to bargain with the IAMAW.

We understand that three of the terminated employees were allegedly discharged for missing a bird strike on an airplane engine in a post-flight inspection, even though the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) subsequently supported the fired inspectors’ claims that there was no engine damage and no indication of a bird ingestion in the engine core consistent with a bird strike that would cause detriment to the airworthiness of the aircraft. Given the ongoing concerns in Congress with Boeing’s “self-regulation” with regards to safety, we are especially troubled by the impression in this case that Boeing may be wielding serious aviation security procedures as retaliatory tools against its own front-line inspection employees.

Pursuant to Congress’s oversight of the FAA, we request that your company provide the following information:

- How does your company account for the discrepancy between its findings and those of the FAA regarding the alleged bird strike incident that led to the termination of three Boeing employees?
- How did your company decide to terminate the three employees mentioned above and did it revisit the decision in light of the FAA’s subsequent investigation?
- Were the terminated employees given a chance to appeal their dismissal following the FAA investigation that found no impropriety in the inspection?
• Given the important role unions play in ensuring proper workplace procedures and safety guidelines, what steps has your company taken to ensure timely recognition of unions that form at one of your facilities?

We look forward to your responses to these questions. In the meantime, we urge Boeing to immediately recognize the union that your workers voted to form almost a year ago and come to the bargaining table for good-faith negotiations.

Sincerely,

MARK POCAN  
Member of Congress

JAN SCHAKOWSKY  
Member of Congress

BARBARA LEE  
Member of Congress

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON  
Member of Congress

ADRIANO ESPAILLAT  
Member of Congress

BRAD SHERMAN  
Member of Congress

JOHN B. LARSON  
Member of Congress

NORMA J. TORRES  
Member of Congress

MARCY KAPTUR  
Member of Congress

GWEN MOORE  
Member of Congress
SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress

STEPHEN F. LYNCH
Member of Congress

YVETTE D. CLARKE
Member of Congress

ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress

ALMA S. ADAMS, Ph. D
Member of Congress

BILL FOSTER
Member of Congress

JESUS G. “CHUY” GARCÍA
Member of Congress

DONALD NORCROSS
Member of Congress

ILHAN OMAR
Member of Congress

JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress

JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress

MARC VEASEY
Member of Congress

MAX ROSE
Member of Congress

NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ
Member of Congress
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress

Conor Lamb
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Katie Hill
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress