

ROBERT FORD
SENATOR, CHARLESTON COUNTY
SENATORIAL DISTRICT NO. 42

HOME ADDRESS:
P.O. BOX 21302
CHARLESTON, SC 29413
TELEPHONE: (843) 852-0777
EMAIL: RIF@SCSENATE.ORG

OFFICE ADDRESS:
P. O. BOX 142
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202
TELEPHONE (803) 212-6124
FAX (803) 212-6299
EMAIL: RIF@SCSENATE.ORG
HOME FAX: (843) 571-5935
HOME EMAIL: SENATORRFORD@BELLSOUTH.NET



COMMITTEES:
BANKING AND INSURANCE
CORRECTIONS AND PENOLOGY
GENERAL
INVITATIONS
JUDICIARY
LABOR, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
MEDICAL AFFAIRS
S.C. LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS
CHAIRPERSON, CIVIL RIGHTS AND
AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

October 30, 2009

Jim McNerney, President & CEO
BOEING CORPORATION
100 North Riverside
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Dear Mr. McNerney:

Thank you and we congratulate you on the selection of Charleston, South Carolina for the site for the second home of the BOEING 787 Dreamliner. South Carolina is proud to be a part of the new generation of airliners accommodating passengers and freight with greater efficiency and passenger comfort.

President McNerney, as the Senator representing the district in which BOEING is located, and as the Chairman of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus' Civil Rights & Affirmative Action Committee we are interested in securing information regarding the employment of African-Americans for the Charleston Low Country of South Carolina. The South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus is comprised of the 39 African-American members of the South Carolina General Assembly. We are specifically interested in the range of positions encompassed within the N. Charleston Plant facility, the salary ranges, required qualifications, etc. We respectfully request, employment statistics with regard to positions, race and gender statistics for positions in other BOEING facilities would be informative and appreciated. BOEING'S minority contractor policies and procedures would also be most helpful.

The African-American population in Senate District 42 where the facility is located is approximately 55% percent, in the greater Charleston area and the Low Country the percentage is 40%. The overall African-American population statewide is 31%; the state's Hispanic population has grown rapidly approaching approximately 10% in 2009. Employment potential with a state unemployment rate of 11% is very important to the South Carolina employment and economic front. The African-American community has borne the brunt of the job displacement and as a result has been disproportionately affected. Representative Leon Howard and I appreciate your time and hope that this request for information is deemed positive and prudent while allowing us to better understand the positive impact and potential employment opportunities for African-Americans and other minorities.

Jim McNerney
Page -2-
October 30, 2009

The committee and the Caucus Chairman are very interested in establishing dialogue with the appropriate personnel at BOEING via a series of meetings to discuss the community, partnerships, positive employment campaigns and training programs for potential employees. The dialogue would prove to be informative to both BOEING and the Caucus. The community would benefit immensely from the relationship and the fact that their elected representative supports and respects the corporation's leadership.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in acquiring this information. Please feel free to contact me at the following numbers should you require additional information. At the request of Representative Leon Howard, I am taking the lead due to his busy schedule and will serve as the point of contact for this issue. I can be reached at 843-813-1777(h), 843-852-0777(c), or 803-920-5399(c). Representative Leon Howard, District 76 and Chairman of the House Medical, Military and Municipal Affairs Committee can be reached at (803)237-3046(c), or 803-734-3046.

Sincerely,

Robert Ford
Senate District 42
Chairman, Affirmative Action & Civil Rights Committee
S.C. Legislative Black Caucus

Leon Howard, Vice-Chairman
Affirmative Action & Civil Rights Committee
S.C. Legislative Black Caucus

Wendell G. Gilliard
S. C. House of Representatives
District 111

cc: David Weeks, Chairman, SC Legislative Black Caucus
The Honorable Mark Sanford, Governor
The Honorable Glenn McConnell, Speaker Pro Tem
The Honorable Bobby Harrell, Speaker & Chief Administrative Officer
The Honorable Hugh Leatherman
The Honorable Wendell Gilliard
The Honorable Keith Summey, Mayor of N. Charleston
The Honorable Lindsay Graham
Joe E. Taylor, Secretary of Commerce