

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 18, 2009

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

Dear Mr. President:

The United States Government has long argued to the World Trade Organization (WTO) that European governments illegally subsidize the development of Airbus aircraft. On September 4th of this year, the WTO issued an interim ruling affirming this claim.

Your U.S. Trade Representative – Ambassador Ron Kirk – recently stated that these illegal subsidies “caused adverse effects to the interests of the United States.” These subsidies, which include non-commercial rate loans, have eroded US market share in the commercial aerospace industry and as a result, our nation’s industries and workers have suffered. Despite the WTO finding, European governments have publicly signaled they will continue to sponsor similar illegal subsidies in the development of the A350. This will allow Airbus to continue to grow without assuming any of the financial risk and accountability with which U.S. firms must contend.

U.S. government policy should be consistent across all federal agencies. Foreign governments or companies should not be rewarded for products that benefitted through the use of illegal subsidies or for flagrantly disregarding international obligations. When the WTO’s final ruling in this matter confirms U.S. claims that Airbus products were illegally subsidized, we will be committed to ensuring this policy is upheld.

Sincerely,

Patty Murray
Barack Obama
Jeff Bond

Sam Brownback
Chris Dodd
Marianne Comstock

James J. [unclear]

Sayby Chaublin

William Starnes

Wm F. B. [unclear]

Jeffrey A. Merkle

J. [unclear]

John [unclear]

John DeMont

Caro McCasill