



Evergreen Freedom Foundation

A Nonprofit Public Policy Research Organization

January 20, 2004

Dear Legislator,

At 5:00 this evening, KING 5 TV aired a news story about the contract the state made with the Boeing Corporation on behalf of lawmakers and the public. Our Foundation participated in this story for several reasons:

- We could not get a copy of the contract until after we threatened serious consequences to obtain it.
- Copies of some exhibits have been redacted almost entirely, except for the part about how much the legislature shall pay.
- The document contains explicit instructions to parties with access to details to keep that information out of the hands of the public.
- The provisions in the contracts are startling and unsettling.
- The provisions violate or at least “bend” state law.

The governor said the deal was necessary to “safeguard” 200,000 jobs. Unfortunately, he seems to have forgotten about the other hundreds of thousands of jobs in jeopardy because of our state’s tangled and onerous tax and regulatory policies. Boeing’s deal includes seven state-hired coordinators who will be responsible to help Boeing get around the onerous state policies every other business must deal with daily on its own.

Two years ago, Boeing CEO Alan Mulally testified before the legislature on why it was counterproductive for Boeing to do business in our state. He listed six reasons and noted that those also applied to other businesses. We do not fault Boeing officials for cutting the best deal they could for their company. But we do think the governor, and now the legislature, should make a contract with all businesses in our state to give them a competitive business environment.

Businesses do not need corporate welfare, they need freedom to compete. If our state does not provide it, we will lose their business.

Cordially,

Bob Williams
President