

Remarks as prepared: Gov. Inslee's announcement of a Special Session to ensure
the 777X project is built in Washington
November 5, 2013

Thanks for joining us, we have good news today.

Today, in Washington state, we have decided to step up to design our future, not hide from it. To do this, it will take some big, bold decisions in a short period of time. That's why today I am calling for a special session of the Legislature to begin this Thursday.

I am calling on lawmakers to pass a bipartisan package of legislation that can guarantee the Boeing 777X and its carbon fiber wing is built in Washington state. The Boeing Company and the Machinists Union told me today that they have an agreement for a long-term contract. The union membership will vote on that next week.

That would be an essential step forward in securing the 777X for Washington, the rightful home of the best airplanes and the best machinists in the world. And not just for now. That contract would be an inter-generational compact that would help fuel our economy for decades to come.

The Boeing Company has assured me that if the union approves that contract and the Legislature approves this package, the 777X and the wing will be built here. This will give us certainty that Washington's aerospace future will be as bright as it's past. I have had numerous meetings and telephone calls with the company and the Machinists in recent weeks and they are showing themselves to be great partners in the effort to strengthen our state's economy.

I want to particularly thank Rich Michalski and Tom Wroblewski from the Machinists Union and Ray Conner from Boeing who have worked so hard in recent days to get us to where we are today. I know it hasn't always been easy. But the fact that representatives from Boeing and the union are standing with us today shows the commitment you all have to your industry and this state.

Now, the state needs to join that partnership. Starting Thursday, lawmakers will be asked to approve a package of legislation that includes:

- First, a significant package of statewide transportation investments and important reforms to ensure we build projects as efficiently and effectively as possible. I've been pushing for this since my first day in office and now we know it is an essential piece to our aerospace future. I appreciate the work lawmakers have continued to do on this, including the Senate listening tour that took them around the state. We have had productive talks about transportation and there is growing legislative support for a package;

- Second, investments in education to expand our world class aerospace workforce;
- Third, further expansion of our efforts to make permitting more efficient for large manufacturers who want to locate or expand in Washington, as has been done in Everett and Snohomish County;
- And fourth, ensuring the tax incentives that were put in place for the 787 will continue through the anticipated life of the 777X, until 2040.

It's a lot to do in a week. But the package the Legislature will consider is built on work that began months ago and included bipartisan input from the 777X Task Force.

The bottom line is that this is what Boeing and the Machinists need to compete in the global marketplace and to build this airplane in our state. And, what we need to secure our economic future. This is great news for every Washingtonian.

Look, I consider myself part of the Boeing family. My uncle worked there as did other relatives and friends. I know the importance of that company to thousands of Boeing families around the state. But everyone in Washington has a stake in what we're doing here.

Construction of that carbon fiber wing and assembly of the 777X would be a linchpin for our future economic growth. It would show the world that we in Washington aren't going to hide from the reality of a competitive international economy. And because we have decided to control our own destiny, we will bring back to Washington state advanced manufacturing of the carbon fiber wing – the first time we have reversed that outflow of work in years.

I can't overstate the significance of this wing. It sets the foundation for an advanced carbon fiber industry for the airplanes yet undreamed of. The aerospace industry in Washington generated \$76 billion in economic activity last year. The 777 generated \$20 billion in economic activity and supports 56,000 jobs.

That's why I and others in the Legislature have been working on strategies and ideas to make sure Washington remains competitive for Boeing and other aerospace businesses. And now we have a commitment that this project and these jobs are ours if we act, and act now.

I look forward to working with everyone here to make this happen.

Thank you.