



February 23, 2010

**MARTIN O'MALLEY**  
GOVERNOR

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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In these difficult economic times, governors like me are acutely aware of the unique economic challenges facing states from coast to coast. Despite our best efforts, we have seen too many factories shuttered and too many of our citizens lose their jobs. While economic recovery requires a multifaceted approach on the part of business and government, one component of our recovery effort, especially here in Maryland, must be to promote domestic manufacturing.

I am writing to urge you to consider one way to help promote manufacturing and put nearly 100,000 Americans to work: a competitive dual-procurement from two great American companies, Northrop Grumman and Boeing, for the next generation of aerial refueling tankers. In addition to providing immediate economic benefits for Maryland and many other states, a competitive dual-procurement strategy ensures that the Air Force will get better tankers at a better price and much faster than through a sole source award.

As I understand, the Department of Defense is currently preparing to rerun competitive bidding on the next generation aerial refueling tanker. The capabilities afforded by this next generation tanker are desperately needed to modernize the Air Force's aging fleet of KC-135's, which has been in continuous operation since the Eisenhower administration. Both Northrop Grumman and Boeing say that, if awarded the contract, they will support nearly 50,000 high-paying jobs here in the United States. However, if the Pentagon were to speed up replacement of old KC-135's by competitively buying tankers from both companies, the combined effort would support almost 100,000 skilled jobs for nearly two decades.

Putting over 2,000 Marylanders to work in high paying and stable manufacturing jobs such as those provided by the tanker project would significantly bolster our continued efforts to jump-start an economic recovery. Moreover, by investing in two proven American contractors, we can send a clear message about our faith in American workers and war fighters. Given the significant benefits of a competitive dual procurement program, I strongly urge you to move forward in this direction. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin O'Malley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "O".

Martin O'Malley  
Governor

cc: The Maryland Congressional Delegation

