



**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

August 2, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express my support of the sale of 66 F-16 C/D aircraft to Taiwan. By accepting Taiwan's Letter of Request you will help save Florida jobs.

More than 40 states have companies that comprise the supplier base for the F-16 production line. The sale of 66 F-16 C/D aircraft to Taiwan translates into 10,934 direct jobs and 30,615 indirect jobs saved across those states. The sale and manufacturing of F-16 aircrafts by Lockheed Martin supports hundreds of skilled jobs in Florida. The sale of these aircraft will save 477 direct jobs and 1,446 indirect jobs in Florida.

As you know, the Space Shuttle Program has ended and high-paying manufacturing jobs in Florida are at severe risk. Florida's 24<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, home to the Kennedy Space Center, stands to lose 321 direct jobs and 1,091 indirect jobs if you do not accept Taiwan's Letter of Request.

As previous letters and reports have indicated, the window of opportunity to act on Taiwan's Letter of Request is closing. Outstanding since 2006, much has changed and continues to change since the Letter of Request was first sent. The 2010 United States Defense Intelligence Agency assessment on Taiwan defense capabilities showed a clear need for improved aircraft for Taiwanese defense.

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Mr. President, I respectfully but urgently request that your administration accept Taiwan's Letter of Request. In May, Florida created 28,000 jobs, more than half of the total jobs created across the nation in that month. Florida's unemployment rate is at its lowest point since 2009, but, at 10.6 percent with almost 980,000 Floridians out of work, it is still too high. Approving this sale will help save jobs. Let's get to work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rick Scott  
Governor