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## U.S. GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF RELEASING F-16S TO TAIWAN: US-TAIWAN BUSINESS COUNCIL

The Lockheed Martin Aeronautics division, manufacturer of the F-16 fighter jets long sought by Taiwan, last week announced plans to cut 1,500 jobs at locations around the United States. This news highlights the need for the U.S. government to reassess its position on the sale and to consider the positive economic impact of releasing F-16s to Taiwan. The US-Taiwan Business Council joins Senator John Cornyn of Texas in calling on the Obama Administration to "end its blockade of Taiwan's request to purchase new F-16s."

Commenting on the Lockheed Martin announcement, Council President Rupert Hammond-Chambers said, "The recent Perryman Report shows that the follow-on sale of F-16s to Taiwan would have a positive economic impact around the country, generating some US\$8.7 billion in gross output and sustaining approximately 16,000 direct and indirect jobs over the life of the program. That would represent a significant economic boost to states such as Ohio and Florida - where unemployment stands at 8.6% and 10.6%, respectively. Reports estimate that 1,800 workers in Ohio and 1,900 in Florida depend on an F-16 sale to Taiwan. Should the Taiwan sale fail to materialize, however, current orders would only sustain the F-16 production line for another two years."

Mr. Hammond-Chambers went on to note that "There is already a strong strategic case in favor of releasing F-16s to Taiwan. U.S. economic security would also be well served by the sale, given the reported positive impact on the employment picture in numerous communities around America. Yet the Obama Administration has not moved forward on this issue due to concerns over China's sensitivities. The US-Taiwan Business Council believes that the U.S. government should instead be evaluating the F-16 sale based on the needs of Taiwan and on its beneficial impact on the United States economy."

### **About the US-Taiwan Business Council:**

The US-Taiwan Business Council ([www.us-taiwan.org](http://www.us-taiwan.org)) is a membership-based non-profit association, founded in 1976 to foster trade and business relations between the United States and Taiwan. The Council provides its members with business intelligence, offers access to an extensive network of relationships, and serves as a vital and effective representative in dealing with business, trade, and investment matters.

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