

Pompeo Statement on Boeing's Intention to Shutter Boeing-Wichita

Pompeo Communications Shop

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WASHINGTON, DC—The Boeing Company announced in November that it was studying the future of its Wichita site, including whether to close the facility near 47th Street South and Oliver. Today, Congressman Mike Pompeo (KS-04) provided the following statement regarding Boeing's announced intention to shutter the Boeing-Wichita facility by the end of 2013. The KC-46A Tanker work will move to Washington state, the engineering work will go to Oklahoma City, and San Antonio will handle the defense modification work.

"Today's statement from Boeing is terrible news. It is a confession that it will not honor its commitment to Kansas. Those Kansas purchases Boeing announced are not new work, but rather a function of increased build rates on already promised work in Kansas. Boeing's statement confirms that it will indeed break years and years of promises.

"Two weeks ago, I informed Kansans that Boeing no longer intended to finish the KC-46A Refueling Tanker in Wichita, and intended to move work on Air Force One out of Kansas as well, thus jeopardizing the future of the Boeing-Wichita facility. At the time, joined by area civic and union leaders, I called on Boeing to keep its promise and come to the negotiating table. I shared with you then the details about what I knew to be true. Additionally, I continued to hope Boeing would do the right thing and honor its commitment. I worked—and will continue to work—to encourage Boeing to keep its word.

"Regrettably, we have now learned that Boeing will not only walk away from its commitment to the people of Kansas to finish the KC-46A tanker here, but it will also leave the state altogether—a state that helped make Boeing successful for more than 80 years and a state whose pride in its heritage

with Boeing is second to none. Do not be fooled by Boeing's announcement that it will continue to rely on sub-supplier work in Kansas. While economically important, that development is not news. That work in no way substitutes for the decade of promises made by the Boeing Company with regard to defense work on the KC-46A tanker at the Boeing-Wichita facility.

"As I pledged two weeks ago, I will continue to do everything I can to encourage Boeing to make this situation right by providing promised jobs to Kansans. I continue to be mystified by Boeing's willingness to squander the eight decades of goodwill it has built up with the people of Kansas.

"As I have said repeatedly—both publicly and to Boeing—Boeing, like every company, has the right to change its business plans and operate in the best interests of its stakeholders. What neither Boeing, nor any other company, has the right to do is make false statements, violate long-held commitments to communities or to receive federal contracts based on representations that it knows are not accurate. The fact that Boeing now appears determined to leave our state will not prevent me from seeking to hold the company accountable for its promises and commitments," stated Pompeo.

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