



June 4, 2009

Daniel Murphy, CEO and Chairman
Alliant Techsystems Inc.
7480 Flying Cloud Drive
Minneapolis, MN 55344
atk.corporate@atk.com
VIA EMAIL AND POSTAL MAIL

Dear Mr. Murphy,

We are writing to express deep concern over the decision of ATK to close its recently acquired Eagle Industries plant in New Bedford, Massachusetts, and move production to Puerto Rico. Such a move would devastate Eagle's approximately 350 New Bedford employees and their families and hurt the community, the local economy, and the taxpayers of the region.

Each one of us represents organizations that have worked for many years to promote decent working conditions in the sewing industry in the U.S. and worldwide and halt the current race to the bottom in labor standards and wages which has harmed the U.S. apparel industry. Unfortunately, ATK's closure of Eagle Industries in Massachusetts in search of lower labor costs in Puerto Rico would only accelerate the race to the bottom even further.

We do not believe that the closure of the New Bedford facility can be considered simply a regrettable economic necessity, the closure of a plant no longer competitive in the global economy. Unlike the vast majority of sewing factories in the United States, this factory enjoys a guaranteed market with the Department of Defense which requires Eagle to supply it with products under its Modular Lightweight Load-Carrying Equipment (MOLLE) contract made in the New Bedford factory. The workers are experienced and efficient.

It is difficult to escape the conclusion that ATK has decided to shut down Eagle's New Bedford plant for any reason other than to crush workers' long-standing attempts to form a union. Previous owners have threatened closure and harassed union supporters in many ways, as documented in SweatFree Communities recent publication, *Subsidizing Sweatshops II*. We were hopeful that when ATK took over the plant on March 31, 2009, management would begin to respect workers' associational rights. It would be disheartening indeed if ATK instead took the final step to escape workers' lawful attempts to form a union by shutting the plant entirely.

Board Members

Bama Athreya, International Labor Rights Forum
Rini Chakraborty
Andrew Kang Bartlett, Presbyterian Hunger Program (PCUSA)
Victoria Kovari, Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good
Sarah Leiber Church, Progressive Jewish Alliance

Dick Meyer, South Sound Clean Clothes Campaign (WA)
Rod Palmquist, United Students Against Sweatshops
Eben Viens, Child Labor Education and Action (VT)
Steve Watrous, Milwaukee Clean Clothes Campaign
Jordan Wells, Labor-Religion Coalition of New York
Stephen Wishart, Workers United

Executive Director

30 Blackstone St., Bangor, ME 04401 USA

National Organizer

207-262-7277

Midwest Regional Organizer

bjorn@sweatfree.org

www.sweatfree.org

Our organizations are all advocates for fair labor standards in government contracting. We believe that government contractors that benefit from taxpayers' money should be model employers, providing sustainable jobs and helping to elevate standards in the industry, not depress them. Federal Acquisition Regulations state that contractors must conduct themselves with integrity and ethics. Many states and local governments, which also buy Eagles products, specifically require contractors to respect workers' associational rights and not cut and run from a factory during an organizing campaign. ATK's own Business Ethics Code of Conduct demands "the highest ethical standards" and "a work environment free of harassment and discrimination."

ATK's actions in this situation will strongly influence our perception of your company and will speak volumes about whether or not ATK is an appropriate ethical government contractor. We also expect that states and local governments that already have expressed concern about working conditions at the Eagles factory in New Bedford will watch ATK's actions closely.

We urge you to reverse your decision to shut down the Eagle factory in New Bedford and look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Sincerely,

Bjorn Claeson, Executive Director
SweatFree Communities

Bama Athreya, Executive Director
International Labor Rights Forum

*Sarah Church, Program Director
Progressive Jewish Alliance

James Jordan, Coordinator
Campaign for Labor Rights

Dick Meyer, Coordinator
South Sound Clean Clothes Campaign

*Rod Palmquist, International Campaigns Coordinator
United Students Against Sweatshops

Steve Watrous, Coordinator
Milwaukee Clean Clothes Campaign

Jordan Wells, Sweatfree Coordinator
Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State

*Signed in an individual capacity only.

CC: Sen. Edward Kennedy, Sen. John Kerry, Rep. Barney Frank, Mayor Scott Lang

Enclosures: State of New York letters concerning working conditions at Eagle Industries in New Bedford.