



14 September 2005

R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL OFFICE
685 SPENCER STREET
WEST MELBOURNE VIC 3003

TEL: (03) 8327 0888
FAX: (03) 8327 0899
CALL CENTRE: 1300 362 298
E-MAIL: members@awu.net.au
INTERNET: www.awu.net.au

BILL SHORTEN
National Secretary

Dear Brother Buffenbarger,

Re: Boeing

On behalf of The Australian Workers' Union (AWU) and its members, I wish to express our sincerest thanks to you, your officials and members in the United States for the generous show of support and assistance that has been provided to the striking Boeing workers in Newcastle, Australia.

Your correspondence of 8 September 2005 achieves many things. Firstly, it demonstrates the capacity and preparedness of workers' throughout the world to fight industrial injustice with a single voice. Secondly, it reaffirms the strong bond between North Americans and Australians – a unity forged through the mutual commitment to democratic rights and principles. Most importantly however, it has bolstered the spirits of our members employed by Boeing, who have recently surpassed 100 days of strike action against the company in their fight for a collective agreement.

The aspirations of AWU members at Boeing are echoed in their IAM Northern brothers and sisters call for a just and fair go in the workplace. Your fight to protect the rights and standards of IAM workers in the face of corporate excess is our fight also.

The AWU and its members proudly stand by you in your struggle. The AWU delegation soon travelling to the United States does so to demonstrate to this company that its employees throughout the world will match the challenges put to them – blow for blow, day by day. Together. United. Stronger.

As one we shall prevail.

Yours in Solidarity

Bill Shorten
National Secretary
The Australian Workers' Union

putting
members
first