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September 30, 2009

VADM Alan S. Thompson
Director, Defense Logistics Agency
Andrew T. McNamara Building
8725 John J. Kingman Road
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-6221

Dear Admiral Thompson:

I am writing to you on behalf of the one-million working men and women of Illinois' labor unions.

It has been brought to my attention that the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) recently awarded a lucrative contract for the production of critical force protection equipment to a foreign manufacturer when a superior, more economical product is made right here in America...specifically in Belvidere, Illinois by Infrastructure Defense Technologies (IDT).

Had this contract been awarded to IDT, it would have create hundreds of good-paying American jobs in an area of our state that has been devastated by the loss of manufacturing work to the tune of 15 percent unemployment. Not only did IDT plan to hire skilled workers to fulfill the defense contract, the company also planned to expand its facility creating area construction jobs and sustaining other local business.

It is my understanding that the contract (Solicitation SPM8E6-08-R-0061) was awarded on the basis of cost over quality and in total disregard of a "Buy American" clause.

In light of our country's severe economic struggles, especially in the manufacturing sector, I urge you to reevaluate this contract award and to take into consideration the quality jobs and wages it could bring to American workers and their families.

In the Labor movement we talk about loyalty and solidarity amongst workers. I am asking you to consider these two principles with regard to this contract. This should be an American project, for the protection of American soldiers, paid for with American tax dollars.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Carrigan
President, Illinois AFL-CIO

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cc: U.S. Senator Richard Durbin, U.S. Representative Donald Manzullo, Governor Patrick Quinn,
Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff Andrew Ross, Kenneth Carlton, IDT, Thomas Carlton, IDT

