

Coalition to press state to rally for aerospace

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LOS ANGELES — A coalition of community and business leaders is targeting California lawmakers as part of an effort to keep aerospace firms from leaving the state, the group's organizers said.

Californians for Aerospace Leadership plans to take out full-page ads in newspapers throughout the state to publish voting records of elected officials on industry-related issues, the group said Thursday.

Coalition members are looking to stem the loss of aerospace jobs, which have been cut by 60,000 statewide since 1986.

"Here to date, all transgressions are forgiven. As of this date, we will begin monitoring and publishing their

voting records," said Ron Cedillos, who heads the coalition and Cedillos Testing Inc., a Long Beach-based tester of aerospace components.

Support for programs among California's congressional contingent has been sporadic and military procurement officers are increasingly inclined to build weapons elsewhere, Cedillos said.

One example is the awarding of the \$95 billion Advanced Tactical Fighter contract in April to a team led by Calabasas-based Lockheed Corp. Lockheed plans to build the plane in Marietta, Ga., home state of the Senate Armed Services Committee chairman, Sen. Sam Nunn.

A competing team led by Northrop Corp. in Los Angeles would have built much of the plane in Southern California.