

# Defense group takes aim at lawmakers

*Coalition to publish voting records as it tries to stem job losses*

By Russ Britt  
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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 Thursday.

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.

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 is president of Cedillos Testing Inc., a Long Beach-based tester of aerospace components.

Support for Pentagon 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 Lockheed Corp. Lockheed plans to build the plane in Georgia, home state of the Senate Armed Services Committee chairman, Democratic Sen. Sam Nunn.

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

Congressional votes will be watched on such key projects as the \$65 billion B-2 stealth bomber program, Cedillos said. The program would mean 41,000 jobs at Northrop, builder of the radar-evading plane, and other subcontractors throughout the state, he said.

Some members of California's congressional delegation questioned the coalition's methods.

"I will never support a weapon because it's made in California. I will support it because we need it. If we need it, I will fight for California's fair share," said U.S. Rep. Barbara Boxer, D-San Rafael, who has come out against the B-2.

The coalition contains leaders of industry, business associations and volunteer organizations. It has the backing of Gov. Pete Wilson, who appeared via satellite at a press conference to inaugurate its effort Thursday.