

Murphy Statement on Pratt & Whitney Decision to Ship Jobs Out of Connecticut

Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) released the following statement on the news that Pratt & Whitney has decided to ship jobs from the Cheshire Engine Center and the Connecticut Airfoil and Repair Operations in East Hartford out of state.

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NEW BRITAIN - Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) released the following statement on the news that Pratt & Whitney has decided to ship jobs from the Cheshire Engine Center and the Connecticut Airfoil and Repair Operations in East Hartford out of state.

"Pratt has short-term profit blinders on that are causing them to rush toward a decision at the expense of the long-term health of the company. This is a bad decision, made indefensible given the fact that the Governor, the Congressional delegation, and the union pulled out every stop to keep these jobs in the hands of a workforce that is second to none in skill and dedication.

"I'm going to do everything I can to make sure that the people whose livelihoods are affected by this decision have what they need to find new employment and job training for their transition in this tough economy."

Murphy's History on Fighting for Jobs at Cheshire and East Hartford Pratt & Whitney Facilities

- On July 23, just days after Pratt & Whitney announced it was considering closing the two plants, Murphy wrote a letter to the company raising national security concerns because the Cheshire facility is the only plant in the company's network that repairs the F117 engine, which supplies power to the United States Air Force's C-17 Globemaster III.

- On August 4, Murphy attended a Pratt & Whitney rally to discuss his support of the Machinists position in talks with the company.

- On August 6, Murphy held a town hall meeting with Pratt & Whitney employees in Cheshire who questioned why the company is considering shutting down their Cheshire facility, which in June set a record by delivering \$110 million in revenue for the company.

- In late August, Murphy organized a letter that was signed by 21 other state officials that asked Pratt & Whitney to consider delaying any closure decisions until late 2010, when the current contract with the IAM expires, allowing time for the economy to improve and for the state to potentially come up with assistance for the company to stay in Connecticut. He delivered this letter to Pratt & Whitney with members of the Machinists union on August 28.

- On September 3, Murphy participated in a conference call with Governor Rell and members of the Connecticut Congressional delegation to discuss a state aid package that the Connecticut officials planned to offer Pratt & Whitney.

- On September 16, Murphy and members of the Connecticut Congressional delegation met with Louis Chenevert, CEO and President of the United Technologies Corporation (UTC) to press Mr. Chenevert to delay the Pratt decision for at least a year.

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