



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

## MEDIA ADVISORY

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# Boeing Fire Fighters Reject Boeing Company's Failed Contract Offer

*RENTON, WASH.* – Earlier today, fire fighters protecting the Boeing Company's Washington State facilities overwhelmingly rejected the company's latest contract offer, which still fails to recognize the safety consequences of its corporate strategy

Boeing locked out its 125 fire fighters and emergency medical workers on May 4 after refusing to seriously address IAFF Local I-66's concerns over low pay and its impact on safety. Despite their critical work, I-66 members earn up to 30 percent less than fire fighters at nearby fire departments – forcing many Boeing fire fighters to leave the company for pay commensurate with their dangerous work and the opportunity to earn family-sustaining wages.

It takes Boeing fire fighters 14 years to reach top pay, a threshold only about a quarter of I-66 members ever reach. The company's latest offer only reduced that by one year, continuing its history of not adequately responding to the Local's concerns.

“This round of negotiations resulted in Boeing presenting its second, ‘Best and Final Offer,’ a contradiction in terms, and a clear sign of the corporate giant's complete lack of respect for our members,” said IAFF General President Edward A. Kelly. “All this from a company that has benefitted for years, receiving millions upon millions of dollars in taxpayer-funded incentives as well as other government entitlements which have increased their bottom line.”

Low pay and an extended seniority system perpetuate safety issues at Boeing, as fire fighters highly trained to respond to industrial accidents continue to leave the company.

Boeing fire fighters want to return to work, and Local I-66 urges Boeing to come to the table with a proposal that seriously addresses safety and retention.

## **ABOUT THE IAFF**

*The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) is the driving force behind every advance in fire and emergency services in the 21st century. With headquarters in Washington, D.C., and Ottawa, Ontario, the IAFF represents nearly 350,000 professional firefighters, emergency medical workers, and rescue workers. Our members protect more than 85 percent of the United States and Canada's population.*

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